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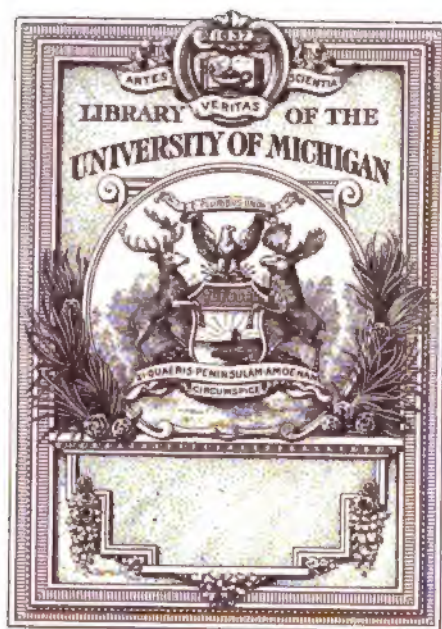
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CALENDARS.

Instructions to Editors.

The Master of the Rolls desires to call the attention of the Editors of Calendars to the following considerations, with a view to secure uniformity of plan in the important works on which they are engaged :—

He is anxious to extend, as far as is consistent with proper economy and despatch, the utility of the Calendars of State Papers now publishing under his control: 1st. As the most efficient means of making the national archives accessible to all who are interested in historical inquiries; 2nd. As the best justification of the liberality and munificence of the Government in throwing open these papers to the public, and providing proper catalogues of their contents at the national expense.

The greater number of the readers who will consult and value these works can have little or no opportunity of visiting the Public Record Office, in which these papers are deposited. The means for consulting the originals must necessarily be limited when readers live at a distance from the metropolis; still more if they are residents of Scotland, Ireland, distant colonies, or foreign states. Even when such an opportunity does exist, the difficulty of mastering the original hands in which these papers are written will deter many readers from consulting them. Above all, their great variety and number must present formidable obstacles to literary inquirers, however able, sanguine, and energetic, when the information contained in them is not made accessible by satisfactory Calendars.

The Master of the Rolls considers that, without superseding the necessity of consulting the originals, every Editor ought to frame his Calendar in such a manner that it shall present, in as condensed a form as possible, a correct index of the contents of the papers described in it. He considers that the entries should be so minute as to enable the reader to discover not only the general contents of the originals, but also what *they do not* contain. If the information be not sufficiently precise, if facts and names be omitted or concealed under a vague and general description, the reader will be often misled, he will assume that where the abstracts are silent as to information to be found in the documents, such information does not exist; or he will have to examine every original in detail, and thus one great purpose will have been lost for which these Calendars have been compiled.

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1st. All formal and official documents, such as letters of credence, warrants, grants, and the like, should be described as briefly as possible.

2nd. Letters and documents referring to one subject only should be catalogued as briefly as is consistent with correctness. But when they contain miscellaneous news, such a description should be given as will enable a reader to form an adequate notion of the variety of their contents.

3rd. Wherever a letter or paper is especially difficult to decipher, or the allusions more than ordinarily obscure, it will be advisable for the Editor to adhere, as closely as is consistent with brevity, to the text of the document. He is to do the same when it contains secret or very rare information.

4th. Where the Editor has deciphered letters in cipher, the decipher may be printed at full length. But when a contemporary or authorised decipher exists it will be sufficient to treat the cipher as an ordinary document.

5th. Striking peculiarities of expression, proverbs, manners, &c., are to be noticed.

6th. Original dates are to be given at the close of each entry, that the reader may know the exact evidence by which the marginal dates are determined.

7th. Where letters are endorsed by the receivers and the date of their delivery specified, these endorsements are to be recorded.

8th. The number of written pages of each document is to be specified, as a security for its integrity, and that readers may know what proportion the abstract bears to the original.

9th. The language of every document is to be specified. If, however, the greater part of the collection be in English, it will be sufficient to denote those only which are in a different tongue.

10th. Where documents have been printed, a reference should be given to the publication.

11th. Each series is to be chronological.

12th. The Prefaces of Editors, in explanation of documents in the volume, are not to exceed fifty pages, unless the written permission of the Master of the Rolls to the contrary be obtained.

°° Editors employed in foreign archives are to transcribe at full length important and secret papers.

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**VOL. XIV.**  
**1615—1617.**  
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EDITED BY
ALLEN B. HINDS, M.A.

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## PREFACE.

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THE present volume of this Calendar embraces a period of two years only, from September, 1615, to August, 1617, a shorter space than usual in a somewhat larger volume. The enlargement is due more to an increase in the materials consulted than to any special importance in the events narrated, although the volume contains many and various items of interest. Europe was indeed drifting in the direction of a great general war, but despite the outbreak of minor hostilities in various places, the great convulsion had not yet begun. But the nearer the approach to more modern times the fuller and richer do the Archives at the Frari at Venice become. It is true that the absence of an English ambassador at Venice for eight months of the time leaves a big gap in one important series of papers, but that is more than made up in other ways. The letters from and to the Inquisitors of State cited here are unusually numerous, relating for the most part to the Foscari trial and other kindred subjects. An account of Rizzardo's letters in cipher to the Inquisitors was given in the preface to the preceding volume. The remaining fourteen of the letters are printed here. In the archives of the Inquisitors of State I was so fortunate as to discover a further series of documents upon the trials of Antonio Foscari and Giulio Muscorio, comprising the articles of accusation, answers in defence and the depositions of witnesses. A short abstract of the most important portion of this material has been printed as an Appendix. These two series together, although dealing with the case of Foscari and Muscorio, a subject only remotely connected with English history, contain incidentally a number of interesting details upon English habits and customs at the beginning of the seventeenth century, both in the Court and elsewhere.

Another series, the secret communications to the Senate from the Council of Ten, is unusually full owing to a perfect epidemic of plots, though the most interesting of all, for English readers, is contained in the ordinary despatches.

Upon the outbreak of the war with the Archduke Ferdinand in Istria and Friuli the Venetian Senate began to send regular reports of the course of events to all their representatives abroad, "to use as the service of the state might require." These reports, though severely compressed, occupy a good deal of space. The activities of Ossuna, the Spanish Viceroy of Naples, cause the despatches of Spinelli, the Venetian resident there, to assume a fresh importance, and they have been drawn upon very largely. But the most important new series, which starts in this volume, is that of the despatches from Holland, known officially as *Senato, Segreta, Dispacci, Signori Stati*. The outbreak of the war with the Archduke Ferdinand led Venice to look about her for help in the most likely quarters. Towards the end of March, 1616, the Secretary Lionello was sent from England on a special mission to the States General, and in June of the same year the Signory sent Christofforo Surian from the Grisons to reside at the Hague as their regular representative. Surian's despatches, coming from a country in such close relationship with England and bound by such intimate ties, are only second in importance to those sent from London itself. As might be expected, they contain a great deal of matter bearing upon English affairs, independent in character and bearing a special value as an observation from outside, as compared with one from within.

## I.

It is not easy to present a clear and definite picture of the trend of European affairs during these two years. This is due to a lack of purpose and direction, which some great statesman might have supplied if he had possessed sufficient power to make his will felt. Unfortunately for the time, no such statesman appeared.

In Spain the King was a superstitious weakling, the Government in the hands of those who sought only their private advantage. With so little control from home the great Viceroys at Naples and Milan did much as they pleased and ruled as independent princes. In a burst of confidence the Spanish ambassador in London, Sarmiento, unburdened himself on the subject to the Venetian Secretary Lionello. The preservation and increase of the country, he remarked, were due more to the grace of God than to the wisdom of the Council, which indeed worked wonders under the pressure of necessity, but for the most part was governed by so many private interests that serious mistakes were made (No. 785).

France, which Henry IV. had welded together with so much trouble, seemed in even worse case. The Queen Mother was entirely in the hands of Concini and his wife, who had nothing but selfish aggrandisement in view, which they hoped to obtain by leaning on Spanish support. The Princes of the Blood, enraged at being excluded from what they considered their fair share in the Government, raised the standard of revolt and appealed to all the forces of discontent in the kingdom. They spoke in the name of patriotism, but at bottom they were venal and selfish. In the midst of this civil strife the condition of the people was deplorable. Foscari, who travelled through France on his way home, gives a lively picture of the state of the country (No. 152). The spirit of patriotism seemed dead. The Court party was quite willing to allow Sedan to fall into the hands of the Spaniards, if only Bouillon was despoiled (No. 655). In a remarkable passage Lionello exclaims that the French monarchy might easily be reduced to a number of separate provinces and free towns, as was the case in Germany (No. 741).

In the Empire the Princes of the Union showed themselves feeble and ineffective, fearful exceedingly of

committing themselves to any line of action which might involve disagreeable consequences. Their leader, the Elector Palatine of the Rhine, was too apt to look for light and leading to a father-in-law, ever prodigal in "good sentences and well pronounced," but who had never been known to forget himself so far as to afford really effective help to anyone.

In John of Olden Barnevelt the Netherlands indeed possessed a statesman of long views and keen foresight, who in happier circumstances might have done much towards shaping the course of events. Although theirs was a new and diminutive state, the Dutch were not deterred by any craven fear of the Spanish might (No. 811). They would have welcomed, rather than otherwise, any opportunity of attacking Spain, and did everything in their power to assist and foment the enemies of the Hapsburgs in every quarter. By preference they would have chosen a war with Spain with the active assistance of France and England. Alone and unaided they did not feel equal to coping in every quarter at once with the great power that lay across Europe. Moreover they did not feel safe from other enemies. They well knew the hostility of Denmark, and the episode of the siege of Brunswick led to a most dangerous situation. Fresh occasions for dispute seemed to be constantly cropping up with England, where the negotiations for a Spanish marriage caused them great uneasiness. France, which should have been their greatest source of strength, actually called upon them, under the terms of the alliance, to supply troops to quell her own civil disturbances. Thus Barnevelt, though probably the greatest statesman of his time, had not sufficient force behind him to direct a world-shaping policy. Worse than all, his country became involved in internal dissensions which eventually engulfed the Advocate himself, and the whole country was rent by the religious strife between the Armenians and Gomorrhists.



Over against a Europe so distraught, a prey to so many conflicting interests and yet without any trusty leaders to indicate which way to follow, the ruler of Great Britain, now satisfactorily welded together and conscious of its strength, enjoyed a position of remarkable advantage, full of immense possibilities. From every part of the Continent men were looking to this favoured island for a lead. But the situation required a man of action, firm and resolute of purpose, and James proved himself singularly inadequate. He possessed sufficient acuteness to perceive the possibilities which lay before him, but was utterly incapable of taking advantage of them. His constitutional indolence grew upon him. He felt a growing distaste for the toils and cares of government and lived almost entirely in the country. The worthless favourites he kept about him did everything to foster this disposition (No. 456). If only the world could have been ruled by syllogisms, what an excellent arbiter of Europe he would have made! As it was, he cherished the ambition of being looked up to as the universal peace maker. He extended his efforts in this direction to Denmark, Sweden, Poland and Russia (No. 18). Nearer home the treaties of Xanten and Asti represented the outcome of his diplomatic efforts; in France he showed an equal activity in the same direction. His policy consisted in an endeavour to build up a league, the mere aspect of which would impose inaction upon the Hapsburgs, and by diplomatic machinery to arrange all disputes which arose in Europe. His mistake lay in supposing that these things would stand and impose of themselves without any real backing of force behind them. When the strain came and the structure began to give way, he made no sign of movement, and naturally, before long, his enemies came to count upon his inactivity. (*See* No. 715.) In these despatches we may trace the breakdown of this policy, ending in utter bankruptcy.

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## II.

In Germany the treaty of Xanten so far succeeded that it brought about a suspension of hostilities at a time when the situation looked very threatening. But there its success ended. It had never been accepted either by the emperor or the archduke, and it speedily became apparent that its terms would never be carried out. The Spaniards and the Dutch mistrusted each other too thoroughly for either to be the first to make restitution of the places occupied. So Spinola clung to Wesel and strengthened its defences, while the Dutch never showed the slightest intention of evacuating Juliers. In his anxiety for peace James endeavoured to find some arrangement which would satisfy both the archduke and the Dutch, without much consideration for the treaty for which he was so largely responsible or the friendly power which guaranteed it jointly with him. Thus he went his own way without consulting the French, who looked on with mingled feelings of resentment and amusement, feeling sure that the efforts of the British Solomon would prove abortive. The plan suggested by James was engagingly simple. He wished the Dutch to give up Juliers and the other places they had occupied, upon which the Spaniards undertook to evacuate Wesel and their other conquests. He even asked the Dutch to subscribe to the undertaking required by the archduke, that they would never again invade Cleves unless it were openly attacked (No. 120). The Dutch did not place such implicit confidence in Spanish assurances. They felt sure that the Spaniards only wished to get possession of Juliers, and that accomplished they would find plenty of excuses for not restoring Wesel (No. 293). In May, 1616, James strongly urged the States to make restitution and threatened to wash his hands of the whole business if they refused. In a later despatch Lionello states that the king, in an interview with Caron, the Dutch ambassador, urged him to see that his

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masters restored Cleves to the margrave of Brandenburg, a point that was also being urged by the king of France (No. 330). Restitution to Brandenburg and co-operation with France are not mentioned elsewhere. This information is contained in one of Lionello's earliest despatches, and as it does not tally with the news previously sent by Barbarigo, we may conclude that he has made a mistake. The Dutch knew that to accept James's proposals would cause them grave prejudice, and they replied that they wished to abide by the treaty of Xanten under the guarantee of the two kings (No. 306). A rumour even got abroad that the Dutch had bought the margrave's claim to Cleves.

The reply greatly incensed James, and the attitude of the Dutch was expected to bring about war, for which both sides made active preparation. James, however, did not relinquish his efforts. Sir Dudley Carleton had gone to Holland in March, 1616, with special powers and a seat in the Council of State. On December 3 he made a long speech, urging the Dutch to make restitution. It appears that this action was due to Sarmiento, who had gone to James and represented how anxious Philip was to see the question satisfactorily settled. At the same time James wrote to the elector of Brandenburg begging him to persuade his son to restore Juliers (No. 549). In taking the action Carleton simply carried out his instructions. His private opinion was different. He said to Surian: "He was bound to confess that the Spaniards were crafty. They propose negotiations when it is not convenient to act, and he had observed that they begin negotiations in December and carry them on until March, when they take the field. They act during the summer. If their designs succeed, well and good, if not, they take up negotiations again" (No. 548).

The action of James placed the Dutch in a quandary. If they made a direct refusal they would offend the king, who was very eager for the success of his latest

plan, while if they accepted they felt sure that the Spaniards would deceive them (No. 577). They deliberated for a long while without making any reply, so that Carleton pressed them for an answer. On December the 24th they delivered a cautious statement to the English ambassador that they thanked the king for his care for the general welfare. They wished Juliers and Cleves to remain under the governance of the princes possessioners, in accordance with the treaty of Xanten, but it was necessary to act cautiously owing to the proceedings of the Spaniards in Germany in violation of the treaty. They could not come to a final decision in the absence of some of their colleagues, while the opinion of the elector of Brandenburg and of the princes possessioners must be taken (No. 580).

The Dutch could not understand the policy of James or what objects he had in view, and his action completely puzzled them (No. 582). The French ambassador at the Hague was also puzzled, and, commenting on the impropriety of James acting alone in a business entered upon jointly with France, he declared that this was simply an attempt to sow discord between England and the States. The Spanish ambassador in France declared that Sarmiento had no authority for his action, while the archduke suggested that Carleton, as a young man ambitious for distinction, had probably acted from excess of zeal without due authority (No. 614). James got no sympathy from any quarter. The Dutch persistently postponed giving any definite reply to Carleton's exposition, though the nature of their answer could hardly be doubtful. The French ambassador at the Hague remarked sardonically that he hoped James would find it satisfactory. Thus the treaty of Xanten left everything essential as unsettled as ever. The emperor and archduke refused to accept it; the Spaniards simply used it as a means to embroil England and Holland, while James was only hunting for an excuse to shuffle out of his



responsibilities. The outbreak of the religious dissensions provided him with a task much better suited to his bent of mind. He was thoroughly in his element when writing a scolding letter rebuking the Dutch for their decline from grace, and in selecting English divines to help to put them in the right way again.

### III.

The other model of Jacobean diplomacy, the treaty of Asti, fared no better. Here the material question was not a restitution of fortresses, but mutual disarmament. Savoy began to disarm first and claimed to have carried out the terms of the treaty to the satisfaction of the French ambassador. The Marquis of Hinojosa, the governor of Milan, professed his readiness to carry out his share of the treaty and took steps to comply. But towards the end of the year Hinojosa was recalled and his place taken by Don Pedro of Toledo. The new governor soon showed that he had no intention of carrying out the disarmament, but rather meant to increase his forces.

Events in the north-east of Italy provided him with an excuse for this course. The Venetians had long suffered from the depredations of those "bold Illyrian pirates," the Uscochi or Uscocks, who harboured along the coasts of Dalmatia. They made repeated remonstrances, but the Archduke Ferdinand did nothing effective towards suppressing the nuisance. The Uscocks therefore took courage to commit further outrages. Finally, in November, 1615, they goaded the Venetian Proveditore General in Istria into making reprisals, and from this regular hostilities ensued.

In the west, the action of Don Pedro and his demands from the duke of Savoy also led to hostilities. Charles Emanuel at once began to re-arm, in defence of his dominions, as he explained, and called upon the powers who had guaranteed the treaty of Asti to fulfil their

obligations. Venice, being now definitely at war with the Hapsburgs and very suspicious of the hostile designs of Spain, did all in her power to support the duke, supplying him with funds to engage French mercenaries. Many Frenchmen crossed the Alps to assist, and officially France sent Philippe de Bethune to try and patch up a peace with the help of Cardinal Ludovisio, the papal emissary. The duke of Savoy, however, suspected the good faith of the envoys and thought them far too Spanish in their sympathies. He may have considered it a good opportunity for turning the Spaniards out of Italy. Venice at length, in spite of all her caution, was definitely engaged against the Hapsburgs, and was supplying him with the pecuniary assistance for which he had so often asked. He felt sure of obtaining numerous volunteers from France and especially counted upon Lesdiguières, who actually came to his assistance in December, 1616, with 7,500 men.<sup>o</sup> He expected help from the Netherlands, the Princes of the Union and the Swiss, and he reckoned that if once the Spaniards attacked him James would be bound to take his part.

War broke out in earnest in the autumn of 1616 with the invasion of Piedmont by Toledo in September. The duke attacked Montferrat, but at first he seemed in a sorry plight. Biondi, who arrived from England in December, strongly advised him to make peace on the best terms that he could obtain. He reported that nothing definite could be expected from England, no hopes could be based upon France, where a general revolt seemed impending, and it would be unwise to place much reliance upon the help afforded by Venice.

Before this advice was tended, however, the situation had assumed a different aspect. The arrival of Lesdiguières enabled the duke to take the offensive. The Spaniards had to look to the defence of the Milanese. One prize fell into their hands, the town of Vercelli, which

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<sup>o</sup> Lavissee; *Hist. de France*, vol. vi. pt. ii. (Mariéjol), page 189.

capitulated after a short siege. The loss affected the duke deeply; he blamed the Venetians, who, by inducing him to listen to peace proposals, had caused him to leave the town insufficiently provisioned. He resolved to consent to no peace which did not provide for the restitution of the place, as if it remained in Spanish hands he felt sure that they would speedily become masters of the whole of Piedmont. Rather than this he would resist to the uttermost and die sword in hand (No. 904).

Meanwhile the war between Venice and the Archduke Ferdinand continued to rage in Friuli and Istria, mostly of a predatory and skirmishing character, without any decisive engagement. The Venetians indeed began the siege of Gradisca with good hopes of success, but abandoned the operations as a guarantee of their good faith in the peace negotiations. Upon the whole the fortunes of war inclined to the flag of St. Mark. The Venetians advanced some distance into the hostile country and in one of the actions the Austrian General was slain. But Venice desired peace far more than any success in arms. The heavy expenses in which she was involved were draining her resources. In addition to the cost of the operations in Friuli and Istria, she was obliged to keep a considerable force in Lombardy to defend her frontier against Milan. She was also supporting Savoy to the best of her ability, and the action of Ossuna at Naples compelled her to keep her fleet at full strength, ready for instant action, in which the very existence of the republic might be at stake. At the back of all was the fear that she might become involved in an open and avowed struggle with the whole Spanish power. She did not feel herself equal to a war with Spain, although the hostilities with Ferdinand, the tension with the governor of Milan and the undisguised enmity of Ossuna, almost amounted to a war with the power that was behind them all. Mr. Horatio Brown, in his recent work, has probably finally disposed of Daru's legend that Venice had conspired with Ossuna to make the latter an

independent sovereign in Naples.\* To anyone who has examined the Venetian archives for this period, the notion can only appear grotesque. Ossuna is the enemy most dreaded by the republic, the one whose designs give them the greatest cause for uneasiness, and who threatened them in the Adriatic itself. Hostilities began with the arrest of a Venetian ship from Candia by the governor of Lecce, in May, 1616. In the early months of 1617, Ossuna began to collect a fleet by putting the royal galleys in good trim, fitting out other galleys and detaining such foreign ships as he thought adapted to his purpose. Among the last were two English ships, the *William and Ralph* and the *Delight*, which he forced to unload in June, 1617. Lionello mentions the arrest of two called the *Diamond* and *Latea* (? *Alethea*) about the same time (No. 807). The object of this armament was pretended to be the Turks, but hardly any secret was made of the fact that Ossuna meant to enter the Adriatic to harass Venice and even worse. In March Spinello reported that the Viceroy had sent nine galleys to the Gulf to take ships and do all the harm they could to the republic. In May a considerable fleet assembled at Brindisi, comprising a number of light ships under the command of an English captain, who can be none other than Robert Elliot. In addition to these naval provisions, Ossuna was also busily engaged in collecting a considerable land army, as if for some great design. Among others an Irishman (unnamed) undertook to collect a force of 500 of his countrymen in Rome and Naples (No. 618), but he seems to have experienced great difficulty in enlisting even a tithe of that number.

The Venetians feared an attack in the lagoons themselves. Even in February Spinello speaks of a possible descent upon Malamocco. In June the Senate sent round word to their ambassadors that Ossuna was endeavouring to stir the Turks to attack Crete (No. 789), and had written to

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\* *Studies in Venetian History*, vol. ii. The Spanish Conspiracy.

Philip on the subject. To propitiate the Grand Vizier, Ossuna presented him with some twenty slaves. In this endeavour, however, he met with no success. The Turks viewed the preparations at Naples with as much misgiving as the Venetians. Halil Pasha, the new Vizier, an old friend of the republic, went out of his way to tell Pindar, the English ambassador, that the Sultan was a good friend to Venice and would always be ready to lend her 100 of his armed galleys in case of need. It seemed as if some great design was on foot against Venice, and before long the Senate was in possession of the details of an alleged plot against the State. These were supplied by Jacques Pierre, a French adventurer, who had spoken on the subject to the Venetian representatives at Rome and Naples, and who had been sent by Spinelli to Venice to state what he knew. In a somewhat lengthy paper Jacques Pierre describes the details of an alleged plot between Ossuna, Bedmar the Spanish ambassador at Venice (acting, he says, for the archduke), Captain Robert Elliot and a Venetian named Domenico. 2,000 picked musketeers were to be brought to Malamocco concealed in four galleons ostensibly laden with wool. Elliot was to take them across the lagoons, while Domenico showed the way. 1,000 were to land in the piazza of San Marco and 1,000 at the Arsenal. They expected that about 300 citizens would join them. The nobles were to be bribed by a promise of the confirmation of their privileges. The king of Spain was to be proclaimed. Jacques Pierre and Captain Elliot were to go to the archduke's dominions to procure the light boats needed for the navigation of the lagoons and engage Uscocks to man them. The plan was to be carried out in March or else in October or November (No. 902). Only a few weeks before, Zorzi Giustinian, the republic's ambassador in Germany, had secretly sent word to the Council of Ten of the conspiracy of an Englishman named Gioan Achin (? John Hawkins), then staying in Venice, with a number of

other adventurous spirits, mostly English, to seize some of the ships which had recently brought the Dutch mercenaries to Venice, and sail up and down the Adriatic preying upon Venetian commerce (No. 839). The receipt of this letter, and the arrival of the news that Elliot had joined Ossuna's fleet with a number of light ships, no doubt gave the greater weight to the information supplied by Jacques Pierre.

The situation was recognised by the Venetians as one fraught with grave peril to the independence of their State. Negotiations for peace had been opened at the Imperial Court soon after the outbreak of hostilities. But the Venetians soon perceived that nothing good was likely to result. The Austrians continued to make preparations for more active war, while Eggenburg, the minister sent by the Archduke Ferdinand, evidently came with the express intention of breaking up the negotiations. Accordingly no satisfactory results were achieved and hostilities continued as before.

This double conflict in the north of Italy was too serious a matter to be regarded with unconcern by the European powers. Towards the end of 1616, Richelieu, but newly become Secretary of State, had written to Bethune at Rome suggesting that the contending parties should submit their differences to the arbitrament of the Most Christian King.\* But more definite proposals came from a source which could not well be ignored. In February, 1617, the duke of Lerma suggested that peace negotiations should be opened at Madrid, and that the Venetians should obtain authority to treat in the name of the duke of Savoy, while he undertook to obtain a similar authority from the emperor and the archduke. When the report of these negotiations began to circulate, great umbrage was taken in both France and England, as it was thought that the

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\* Lavisso: *Hist. de France*, vi, pt. ii, pages 189, 190. M. Mariéjol thinks that the Venetians proposed the Madrid negotiations. But they always protested that the initiative came from Lerma.

Venetians had taken the first step. The Venetians strenuously denied this, but they were more than ready to enter upon negotiations. They obtained the consent of Savoy to treat and came to the understanding that neither would make peace without the other. The Venetians then sent full powers to treat to Piero Gritti, their ambassador in Spain. The negotiations thus begun proceeded by no means smoothly and the Venetians almost despaired of a satisfactory result, there were so many points on which it seemed impossible for the parties to agree. The Spaniards refused to consider the question of disarming in the Milanese and claimed that the Venetians by engaging Dutch mercenaries had absolved the king from his obligations, while the Archduke Ferdinand could not be brought to make satisfactory promises with regard to the extermination of the Uscocks. In despair of a settlement they resolved to send to ask their friends to move in their favour, and to prepare for the continuation of the war. On June 9th they sent word to Lionello to go straight to Scotland to the king, to urge him to make some declaration in favour of the republic, such as he had made spontaneously on the occasion of the dispute between Venice and Pope Paul V., and also to remind him of his obligations under the treaty of Asti. The Secretary Surian was to sound the Dutch to see if they would embrace any project for an alliance between the two republics. In the month of August, with which this volume closes, these questions remain undecided, nothing being settled one way or the other, although as a matter of fact the peace negotiations were destined to result successfully in the following month.

## IV.

How did James face this situation in Italy? By the treaty of Asti he had bound himself to protect the duke of Savoy if the Spaniards attacked him after he had disarmed. When called upon to carry out his

promises, he endeavoured to evade his responsibilities by a process of the most pitiful shuffling. When matters began to look serious owing to the refusal of the Spaniards to disarm and their manifest disinclination to carry out the treaty of Asti, the Count of Scarnafes, the Savoyard ambassador in London, immediately asked the king to fulfil his engagements. But the count soon discovered how little satisfaction he was likely to get. Every obstacle was thrown in his way. It was only with the utmost difficulty that he could even obtain audience; the king was away hunting, had hurt himself, was ill, or too busy with his multitudinous affairs. When at length he obtained admittance, he was put off by one excuse after another, the king had sent word to the ambassador in Spain to make strong representations and remonstrances about the treatment of Savoy. He cherished the most simple faith that any representations he might make would receive the most respectful attention and consideration at Madrid. In an audience at Windsor in September, 1616, James received Scarnafes most graciously, and told him he had sent word to his ambassador to tell the Spaniards that though he had no wish to break with them, yet he was bound by his obligations to the duke of Savoy. He would use his influence with the Dutch and the Princes of the Union to get them to join together to protect the common interests. He had plenty of men, but no money, and he suggested that Venice might supply the necessary funds out of her great wealth.

In spite of these fair words it soon became apparent that James did not really intend to do anything. Shortly after this audience he sent a written reply to Scarnafes's request for help, which revealed his true intentions. He stated that he was doing his best for the fulfilment of the treaty of Asti through the offices of his ministers both in France and in Spain. Lord Roos, who was shortly to go to Spain on a special



mission, would have definite instructions to make representations on the subject. As Roos was not even ready to start and did not actually leave before the end of the month, this assistance would be of no value to the duke in his urgent necessities. Scarnafes at once sent in a request for immediate help in men, money and munitions of war. Winwood, on the king's behalf, told him that money there was none, men would take too long to send and the risk was too great, but he should have munitions, though even these were not to be given in the king's name, but consigned by a fictitious sale through the merchant Burlamacchi, in order not to give offence to Spain. Scarnafes pointed out how much his master suffered by the king's conduct, as he had in this way made known his weakness and desperate condition to the Spaniards, and yet derived no assistance whatever from England. The fruitlessness of his efforts would be patent to all the world. When the promised munitions of war were laid before him they proved so ridiculously inadequate that Scarnafes wrote another strong remonstrance. This, however, only led to a further shuffle on the part of James, who said it would be better to suspend this grant of munitions altogether, and when he returned to London he would lay the whole question of helping Savoy before the Council. When, after some weeks, the king sent for Scarnafes to inform him of the results of the deliberation of the Council, he only spoke in general terms and created such an impression that the ambassador wrote to Turin advising the duke to make the best terms he could with Spain (No. 523). Nevertheless he continued to press for assistance, though with very little hope of success. These further negotiations were carried on with Edmondes and Winwood. By successive delays they succeeded in procrastinating until in February, 1617, they told Scarnafes that the king had heard of the arrival of Lesdiguières in Piedmont, and he hoped this

would bring the governor of Milan to reason. Accordingly he proposed not to send any help for the present until he saw what effect the marshal's presence produced. At this Scarnafes lost all patience. He remarked that the king's excuses to avoid the fulfilment of his obligations were judged to be due to want of faith rather than to lack of means, as he would not have promised his help at the treaty of Asti if he had known that he could not keep his word. Nothing had occurred since that time to weaken his power, nor had he spent an extraordinary quantity of money. Winwood became incensed at this plain speaking, but Edmondes intervened, saying that he would explain matters by telling what one in his position ought not to disclose. His Majesty had been so prodigal with his money in the past that his financial distress was even greater than was supposed, and they were absolutely compelled to dally thus in their negotiations until money reached His Majesty from some source. He hoped it would come within two months, but he did not indicate the grounds of his hopes or the expected source of supply. Scarnafes thanked him for this frankness, as although it dashed his hopes to a great extent it was better than constantly putting him off with frivolous, childish pretexts. He had been engaged upon these negotiations for twenty-two months without making the slightest progress. He suggested that in the meantime the king might make some advance upon the strength of these expectations of which Edmondes spoke, and so appease the duke's importunity. They promised to obtain audience for him in the following week (No. 621). This seems, however, to have been generally felt to be the end of the matter. Before the month was out Scarnafes had been recalled, and the interests of Savoy in England were entrusted to Giovanni Francesco Biondi, a Venetian subject pensioned by James, of whom the duke had no very high opinion, and who remained

for weeks together without any news or instructions from Turin.

Throughout these negotiations Venice had given Savoy all the support in her power, asking James to join in securing the carrying out of the treaty of Asti, and making him realise the close understanding existing between the republic and the duke. In England, however, this connection appears to have been regarded with dislike, if not suspicion. Although James would do little or nothing himself he was very jealous of the interference of others. When apprised of the French offer of mediation through Bethune, suggested by Richelieu, he strongly disapproved, saying he fancied that the French wanted to have the negotiations all to themselves without allowing him his proper share (No. 648). When the news of the negotiations at Madrid reached him, before he had received any communication from either Venice or Savoy, he flew into a rage, rated Scarnafes soundly for having deceived him and declared that if it were true he would have nothing further to do with the Venetians or their affairs. The Venetians did their utmost to explain the matter, but the feeling seems to have rankled. When a hitch occurred in the earlier peace negotiations instituted by Bethune and the Cardinal Ludovisco, Winwood laid all the blame on the Venetians, because the two points of disagreement were about including Venice and disarming Milan, both of which concerned Venice. If England helped Savoy, it would really be assisting Venice. The king had previously proposed a league to Venice on more than one occasion, yet she had always declined. She could not expect assistance if she would not enter into obligations on her side. On the other hand when Lionello went to Scotland later on to ask for the king's support and a declaration, James freely promised assistance to Venice but markedly omitted all reference to Savoy, a fact that specially struck Lionello.

The utter ineffectiveness of James does not appear to have arisen from any failure to appreciate the exigencies of the situation, or from any cooling of his friendship towards Venice and Savoy. He viewed with apprehension any increase of the power of Spain, and learned with obvious concern of the fall of Vercelli and the great preparations of Ossuna. The central object of his foreign policy was to form a strong league of powers, excluding Spain, in order to check the aggressions of that country (No. 583). More than once he urged upon Savoy and Venice the necessity of making active war upon the state of Milan, and not to rest purely on the defensive, waiting to be attacked. He was anxious to see others doing something, if they acted under his instigation, and was constantly urging on the Dutch and the Princes of the Union. Upon one occasion when the resident of Florence went to audience the king asked him what the Grand Duke was doing and if he purposed to assist or resist the subjection of Italy to the Spaniards, adding that Cosimo wished to be styled a Grand Duke but was becoming a grand slave (No. 523).

One may well search for the reasons for his impotence in the face of these facts. They are succinctly stated by Lionello in a despatch of the 1st October, 1616. His increasing indolence and distaste for business; his inability to do anything without money, which he could only obtain by summoning a parliament, and his fear of a parliament lest it should provoke a revolution (No. 456). The lack of money paralysed everything and James once told Scarnafes that he could not possibly do what Venice was doing (No. 583A). The leading statesmen realised how much the king was losing in reputation by his conduct, and felt that something ought to be done, but when the conversation turned upon giving help or money all stood silent, as it was notorious that His Majesty was very short of it (No. 601).

The only way out was to summon a parliament, and James was determined to resist that to the last extremity. By so doing he rendered himself impotent abroad, and was forced to excuse his inaction by shuffling. At the conclusion of his despatch of 5 January, 1617, Lionello exclaims, I am constantly confirmed in my belief that the greater part of the things which they say are simply introduced in order to excuse their coldness, as they cannot find any real reasons. These conditions cause us such mortification and distress that I would rather be in any part of the world than here (No. 583).

With all his loud professions and promises James only actually did two things to advance the interests of his friends on the continent. The first was the payment of 50,000 ducats to the duke of Mayenne to take troops to help the duke of Savoy. This money actually was paid, though in the most secret manner; indeed the fact was strenuously denied (No. 43). The difficulty of raising it must have been great and the money can hardly have left ere James repented and sent word to Edmondes not to pay anything unless there was open war in Piedmont without hope of accommodation and Mayenne was ready to start. However, the duke's agent, Fresia, obtained the money by trickery. He had false letters sent from Piedmont urging on Mayenne, as there was a complete rupture. He induced Mayenne to write to the ambassador, saying that he needed money and all the men were ready. Edmondes paid over the money and made Mayenne ante-date the receipt, so that he might be able to say that on the arrival of his instructions he had already paid away the money. Fresia pocketed a portion for himself, paid some to Mayenne and some to others, but none of it ever reached Savoy (No. 52). Such was the fate of the one sum of money that James diverted from his Court favourites to the help of his friends abroad.

The other achievement was the arrangement effected between the Bernese and Savoy. The credit of this belongs to Sir Isaac Wake, sometime Wotton's secretary at Venice and now promoted to be the English agent at Turin. The duke of Savoy wished to obtain a force of 4,000 men from the Bernese in return for a renunciation of the claims of his house upon the Pays du Vaud. He desired Wake to accompany Gabaleoni, who had charge of the negotiations. Wake actually brought the matter to a successful conclusion, by inducing the duke to moderate his demands. Not only did he bring the Bernese to consent to send 3,000 men to help the duke, at their own cost, but he laid the foundations of a definite league between them and Savoy. This success brought great credit to Wake and so indirectly to his master, though it committed James to nothing and did not cost him a penny in hard cash.

## V.

With all his condolence and impecuniosity it is doubtful whether James under any circumstances would have seriously interfered in continental affairs. But in order to make doubly sure the Spaniards endeavoured to keep him amused and inactive by negotiation for a marriage between Prince Charles and the second infanta. These negotiations had been originally started as a last chance of breaking off the proposed marriage between Charles and the Princess Christina of France, which seemed all but settled in 1613. That project had since fallen into abeyance, yet even in 1615 the duke of Savoy considered it practically an accomplished fact and lamented that he should be left isolated, with France, Spain and England all united. James himself categorically declared that the French negotiations must be settled one way or the other before he could even think of discussing the Spanish proposals. Later on he assured Scarnafes that if he did not marry the prince in France he would give him an infanta of Savoy. On

the French side they were glad to keep the idea of an English marriage alive if only for the sake of the Huguenots, though Desmaretz, the French ambassador in London, declared that he would not introduce the subject unless he was spoken to first. When Lord Hay went over to France with so much display he had instructions to negotiate on this question. For a while he seemed most successful, and a messenger sent by him to England wagered 4 to 1 that the marriage would be arranged (No. 410). But it all came to nothing. The Venetian ambassador at Paris reported that the negotiations had proceeded with great coldness on both sides. By October, 1616, the French court were proposing to wed the little princess to the count of Soissons, and it gave great offence to James that one who had been considered worthy of his son should be offered to a subject. Long before, Courtenay had asserted the existence of a secret clause in the contract for the double marriages with Spain, providing that Christina should not be given to Charles. At all events, the project seems to have fallen through from that moment.

The negotiations for a Spanish marriage proceeded with much more vigour but greater secrecy. Whether the Spaniards really desired the alliance may be open to question, but beyond a doubt Sarmiento considered the negotiations a useful move in the diplomatic game. When things were going smoothly he does not seem to have troubled, but when matters looked badly for the Spanish interests he came forward to give a fresh fillip to these negotiations. Thus, during the later months of 1615, the question seemed to be in abeyance. In the autumn of that year Barbarigo, the Venetian ambassador in London, thought that the Somerset scandal would utterly ruin the Spanish influence at court. How far he miscalculated appears from his report early in the following year, that the negotiations for a marriage were far advanced, the Spanish ambassador had had a secret interview with

Viscount Fenton, and had frequent audiences of the queen, generally private, and upon one occasion one of his household had been seen to leave with a picture under his cloak (No. 206). The matter was very much discussed at the queen's court, and the Catholics of London based high hopes upon the alliance (No. 219). By June the whole kingdom was speaking of the marriage as a thing already accomplished (No. 306). But undoubtedly these rumours far outstripped the facts. Sarmiento and the Catholics circulated them to advance their own purposes. The queen assured the count of Scarnafes that nothing definite had been arranged and the king promised to inform his friends before he decided anything. When Lord Hay was preparing his sumptuous embassy to Paris, with definite instructions to negotiate for a French marriage, the extent of these misrepresentations became clear. Sarmiento then took another tack. He tried to discredit Hay, and said that the recent action of James in hanging a secular priest had broken off the negotiations, as it showed England so hostile to the Catholic religion that Philip could not possibly ally with him, and the Spaniards would not allow it even if he desired (No. 376). However, no sooner was Hay safely over in Paris than the negotiations were resumed with more vigour than ever and in open opposition to the French proposals. It was argued that a Spanish marriage would be preferable to a French one, with the existing Scotch reigning house, as France and Scotland were the hereditary enemies of England. This argument is said to have made an impression even upon the Puritans (No. 392). When Lord Roos went on his special embassy to Madrid it was generally expected that he would treat on the subject. However, he was expressly forbidden to touch it, and when Lerma tried to bring it forward he made no reply. In England Sarmiento carried on the negotiations with four leading councillors and with so much success that once again everything was reported to be



practically settled. Digby was to go to Madrid to make the final arrangements. But Winwood assured Lionello that he knew Digby had no such definite instructions. He was simply to listen to the proposals made and negotiate superficially. As a matter of fact, the difficulties in the way were too great to admit of an easy settlement. The Spaniards desired that the whole of the Infanta's household should have the free exercise of their religion, but James did not wish to allow any Romanism outside her chamber (No. 498). Even in the Privy Council there was strong opposition in spite of the Spanish leanings of many and the free expenditure of Spanish gold. Edmondes and Hay preferred a French alliance, from which they hoped to win credit for themselves. Edmondes spoke very strongly, saying they were going the right way to lose all their old friends and allies. Abbot also, though he did not take a very active part in the discussions, was determined that this match should not take place, and reserved himself to raise difficulties on the point of religion. Winwood did not desire either a Spanish or a French alliance, but hoped the prince would marry a subject. There was good precedent for such a course, and the nation would supply a better dowry than any foreign prince (No. 771). In this the old statesman represented the general feeling of the English people, which abhorred the idea of a Spanish marriage and liked a French one but little better.

Apparently, however, everything portended a successful issue to Sarmiento's negotiations. The king seemed bent upon the match, the queen also favoured it and even the young prince, though by no means attracted at first, was being won over. Finally, the opposition leaders, Abbot, Winwood, Edmondes and Hay, with Lord Wotton, were excluded from the negotiations. It looked as if Sarmiento had won the day, the majority of the Council were in his pay and he announced that he had already obtained a papal bull of dispensation. He

tempted James with the offer of a magnificent dower of a million and free trade with the Indies.

The progress of these negotiations caused dismay to James's continental friends. The duke of Savoy feared isolation and calculated that England would be estranged for at least three generations. To avert this evil he suggested the offer of a Savoyard princess, the Venetians lending him a dowry sufficient to tempt James, but Venice did not nibble (No. 468). The Dutch viewed the project with equal concern. "If this marriage takes place," exclaimed Prince Maurice of Nassau, "we shall be hedged about on every side" (No. 509).

And yet it is uncertain whether either side was in earnest. Sarmiento found the negotiations useful to amuse James. They kept him from meddling in continental affairs, alarmed his friends and committed Spain to nothing, as the princess was too young for anything to be done immediately. James was moved by a variety of reasons, none of them very respectable. It was said he only used the negotiations to make the French jealous, or to make a jest of the king of Spain, who was not serious on his side, or to keep both plans going so that if one failed the other might succeed. It was also said that he used them as a lever to obtain money from his own people, to induce them to give more than Spain offered. In any case, James was playing a double game. He gave the Dutch and Venetians more than one assurance that nothing would come of the negotiations. In June, 1617, Carleton told Surian that though the ambassador had gone to Spain to listen to what was proposed, this would not prevent the king from carrying out his policy, not to suffer the progress of the Spaniards and not to lose his good friends (No. 811). That this was official appears from the fact that James repeated practically the same thing to Lionello in Scotland (No. 837). The Venetians hoped that the king's numerous points of disagreement with the

Hapsburgs might lead to the whole question being put aside, and that the Spaniards might presume too far upon the pacific nature of James (No. 807).

## VI.

France remained in a very unsettled condition. The princes, under the leadership of Condé, were in open revolt and the royal forces under the Marshal Boisdaplin could do practically nothing to check them. With James the revolted princes kept up a steady correspondence. They urged him to intervene in France by armed force to prevent the marriages with Spain. It was reported in Rome that the governor of Calais had directed his brother to look out a suitable place where English troops might be landed (No. 21). James received their emissaries with every show of affection and honour, but told them he must await the report of his ambassador in France, who had instructions to make strong representations before taking any action. In spite of this the French government suspected James, and his messenger, Mr. Henry Herbert, was seized and stripped at Boulogne. Although they found nothing on him but letters to the ambassador and his passport, they detained him a prisoner, a course which led to a strong remonstrance from James. When the court left Paris for the frontier, Edmondes after some hesitation remained behind. He thought it best to stay away from the royal weddings against which he had protested. In the middle of October, however, he hurried after the king to urge him to come to terms with the princes. If not, he threatened that James would actually support Condé. If they introduced Spanish troops into France to defeat the malcontents he declared that his master would send English troops to France, as it would not suit his interests to have Spanish troops so near his kingdom (No. 85). Edmondes offered his mediation with the Huguenots, who were holding their assembly at Grenoble. The Queen Mother received

him with reserve, as she suspected him of secret dealings with both Huguenots and princes. She haughtily asserted that the princes ought to come to sue for pardon, and deprecated the idea of foreign intervention. The papal nuncio also offered mediation, with the idea of cutting Edmondes out. Nevertheless, the ambassador persisted, and in spite of every discouragement achieved such success that the Queen Mother expressed her gratitude to him. This change in her sentiments was chiefly attributed to the discovery of an alleged plot to deprive her of her authority. Upon this revelation she sent for Edmondes and told him that she now recognised the prudence of his advice. Those about her had endeavoured to give her a bad opinion of him, but she had now come to appreciate his worth and she asked him to treat freely with her thenceforward (No. 193). Thus encouraged, Edmondes proceeded with his task unhampered. When the Huguenots expressed dissatisfaction with the terms accepted by Condé, he and the duke of Sully set out for la Rochelle and finally succeeded in talking them over. The treaty of Loudun, signed on the 3rd May, was chiefly due to his efforts, and the Venetian ambassador, Contarini, freely admitted as much (No. 284). The duke of Savoy, who would have liked to see the princes completely triumphant, declared that James had lost a great opportunity (No. 126).

By the treaty of Loudun, the royal party sacrificed the old ministers of Henry IV., whose places were filled by new men. The Ambassador Desmaretz, who was Sillery's son-in-law, felt his position to be so far compromised that he asked for his recall. This was not granted, although he did not possess the full confidence of the new government.

Condé was received with acclamation in Paris and the princes wished him to seize upon the reins of government. The Queen Mother took her courage in both hands, and on September 1st had him arrested and imprisoned in the

Bastille. At the first shock the people took this very ill, but by degrees the feeling disappeared and gave place to a sensation of relief at the prospect of peace (No. 484). As James had guaranteed the treaty of Loudun his honour was concerned in this event, and he wrote to his ambassadors instructing them to make strong remonstrances. Stirred by the pressure of Condé's mother he spoke strongly to the French ambassadors in March, 1617, and promised the princess that he would do everything possible. With these efforts he satisfied his honour. The princes were in revolt again, but they could not do much without their natural leader, yet despite their weakness they neither sent to James to tell him of their plight nor to ask for help. With the fate of the treaties of Xanten and Asti before them, what could they expect? (No. 458).

On receiving the news of Condé's arrest, the Ambassador Desmaretz wished himself to impart the news to the king at the earliest opportunity. James happened to be returning from an extended progress and was thirty-seven miles from London, yet Desmaretz set out to meet him. James had little taste for audiences at any time and hated being taken unexpectedly, while he personally disliked the French ambassador; so he gave him an appointment twelve days ahead at a place some distance away. Meanwhile the king had some inkling of the news and wished to learn all the particulars; but instead of sending for the ambassador, he sent Winwood to him. This offhand treatment infuriated Desmaretz. He swore he would never again go to audience of the king upon the matter, even if one were appointed for him, or upon any other matter either, unless he received express instructions from Paris. On hearing of his wrath the king sent the Lord Chamberlain to appease him, but Desmaretz refused to be cajoled (No. 426). Throughout the month of September he maintained this attitude, steadily refusing to go to audience and sending all his messages through

Winwood. But at length he allowed himself to be mollified by the Master of the Ceremonies. In November he felt slighted once more, in not being invited to the ceremony of the installation of the Prince of Wales, an omission due to the ill offices of the Spanish ambassador, who had come to consider him his leading opponent.

By the change of ministers following the treaty of Loudun, Richelieu obtained his first introduction to official life, and on 25 November, 1616, he became Secretary of State. His energy and resolution at once made themselves felt, but his name only occurs once in connection with English affairs. In December Edmondes announced his intention of returning home, but said he would soon return. Despite his action at the treaty of Loudun, the Queen Mother and her party still suspected him of an understanding with the malcontents. Before he left Richelieu saw him and begged him not to induce James to take any steps prejudicial to the authority of the French king. The king of England ought not to do what he would not like France to do to him, namely, encourage his subjects to resist him. They were sorry for his departure at that particular juncture, as the king of England had been accustomed to labour for the quiet of France, and the fact that he had not wished Edmondes to intervene would excite the belief either that James did not cherish the same good will, or he believed the evils of the kingdom to be incurable. Edmondes replied that the French king would never experience any lack of good will, but in truth his king, owing to broken faith, did not see how he could interfere to advantage. If he could do anything, he would not fail, but if they could put things straight without outside help, he would rejoice (No. 564).

The imprisonment of Condé and the energetic measures of Richelieu seemed to place the Queen Mother in a very strong position. In reality it was most insecure. The malcontents were looking for help abroad while at home she could reply upon no one but Concini, and even

suspected Guise (No. 651). The favourite, however, seemed to have everything his own way, though universally hated as an upstart and a foreigner. His fall came suddenly and unexpectedly. On April 24th, 1617, Concini was shot down when entering the Louvre by some of the king's gentlemen. The removal of this one man acted like magic. It seemed to resolve all difficulties, henceforward there was only one party in France, the king's.<sup>o</sup> The long regency of the queen mother had come to an end, with its subserviency to Spain and the abandonment of the old friends of the crown. In England the news created great satisfaction. Word reached James at Newcastle when he was about to dine. The king announced the news to those present and called upon them to drink to the health of the Most Christian King and the success of his glorious undertakings (No. 771). Even young Prince Charles shewed his delight (No. 754). The event did not make so much difference as was expected, but the change was sensible. Luynes became chief favourite, but he was at least a Frenchman. France at once took a more active part in the pacification of Italy, in which England no longer had a share.

## VII.

The representatives of the powers at Constantinople experienced an even more trying time than usual, owing chiefly to the action of the Vizier Mehemet and the Cadi Moro of Galata. The Sultan had become alarmed by a report that there were 20,000 Franks in Galata, and to reassure himself on this point he ordered a census to be taken (Sept. 1616); at the same time foreigners were forbidden to pass from one quarter of Constantinople to another. The Cadi Moro seized upon this opportunity to demand that all foreigners who had resided in Constantinople for more than a year should pay the *harach* or *carazo*, and that the ambassadors of France,

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<sup>o</sup> Lavissee, *Hist. de France*, vi., pt. ii., p. 194.

England, the Netherlands and Venice should make a return of their households (No. 423). A similar attempt had been made before, but on this occasion it was more serious because of the Sultan's command behind it. The Cadi also sent to the ambassadors' houses to demand the carazo of the dragomans and threw those of France and England into prison. In Pindar's house, the dragoman ventured to pass before the Cadi telling him that there he had precedence. The infuriated official had him bastinadoed (No. 438). The ambassadors went to the Vizier to complain of the high-handed action of the Cadi, and how they were shut up like prisoners, being forbidden to leave the city on horseback. They threatened to inform their princes that the capitulations had been broken and it would not be possible for them to remain on. They obtained nothing more than a promise that the unmarried merchants should not pay. The Cadi, however, asserted that married merchants, who had resided for two years, were liable. "The rascal protests," says Nani, "that matters shall not rest here, that he knows all our interests well and will make me sweat for it. He is the worst man who has been in Constantinople for 200 years, and even the Pasha is afraid of him" (No. 440). The situation was the worse because the Vizier, although he gave the ambassadors fair words, was really acting in collusion with the Cadi. Pindar went to the Cadi's house and delivered a long and heated speech without any effect, except to incense the Cadi, who threatened to cut out the dragoman's tongue, although he was only interpreting. He declared that all the merchants and dragomans should pay, whether they liked it or not. The ambassador went out in much perplexity, but finding that they had detained his dragoman, he returned and swore he would not leave the spot unless the dragoman accompanied him. Finding it hopeless to resist violence he bought off his servant by consenting to pay the carazo for all the merchants and dragomans (No. 452).



This want of success seems to have discouraged Pindar. When asked to join with the other ambassadors in a formal protest, he declined, and he seems to have contemplated advising the king to withdraw his ambassador and trade altogether from Constantinople in order to bring the Turks to reason.

Fortunately for the foreign merchants the Vizier Mehemet was removed in January, 1617, and replaced by Halil Pasha, a good friend to all the Franks. The four ambassadors lost no time in presenting to him a joint memorial for the removal of the carazo. The mutual jealousies of France and England created some difficulties about the form, but ultimately the paper was drawn up and presented. For some time the new Vizier hesitated, but at the end of February he sent word that the carazo was removed. His personal enemies had offered strong opposition, and the anti-foreign party wished to make the Franks pay throughout the Sultan's dominions. The Venetian Bailo, not being satisfied with the form of the concession, which read as if the carazo had been removed by favour and not because of the capitulations, applied for and obtained an imperial decree, relieving not only the Venetians, but English, French and Dutch subjects as well. In recognition of the services of the Grand Vizier the four ambassadors made up a purse of 500 sequins each, which they quietly presented to him. The happy completion of this affair which had once seemed desperate gave an added joyfulness to the celebration of the opening of the new mosque, which all four ambassadors attended in state, as well as the envoys of the Emperor then present at Constantinople. There the foreign diplomatists fraternised in the most friendly way and each sent a present of vestments which were displayed in the new building. After the ceremony the Vizier sent a present of gorgeous raiment to each of the ambassadors, in fact, wrote Nani, his chief pre-occupation is to find some means of showing honour to the representatives of the powers (No. 795).

In addition to the affair of the carazo, Pindar had to handle a case of even greater difficulty. At the end of September, 1616, there arrived at Constantinople two English ships with a consignment of archenda from Zante to Arthur Garraway, the leading English merchant. This archenda is described as an herb reduced to powder, grown only at Alexandria and greatly consumed by the Turks. The bales bore Turkish marks and were directed to Turks and it was quite obvious that they had been taken from Turkish subjects by pirates and sent to Zante for sale. Nani at once realised the peril of the situation, in which he was like to be involved because the goods had been taken to Zante. He sent to Garraway, who promised to say nothing about where the goods came from if the Bailo would undertake to make the person pay who sold the archenda, supposing it was confiscated. Nani readily accepted this way out of his difficulties and left the Englishman to bear the whole brunt of the Turks' wrath. The storm soon burst. At first they laid the blame on the Venetians, but the Pasha<sup>\*</sup> was disappointed to find them exonerated and that the Englishman accused himself, in his simplicity. But learning that Garraway was worth 100,000 ducats, he determined to fleece him, and declared that the Sultan had ordered the payment of 200,000 ducats, the value of the property on the ships from which the archenda had been taken (No. 453). He subsequently reduced the demand to 20,000 sequins but spurred his victim's desire for release by the use of torture. Pindar interceded, asking for a fair trial, and he would even have paid a considerable ransom but the Pasha's terms were too high. Finally, before the end of the year, Garraway obtained his release by the payment of over 30,000 crowns. His health was ruined by the sufferings he had undergone, and he had experienced other losses, including a cargo of sables, that went down with the galleon *Naranzer* (No. 563).

\* In this case apparently the Caimecam or Vizier's lieutenant.

The report sent home by Pindar of the affair of the carazo and the archenda induced the merchants of the Levant Company to send out Martin Kentish as ambassador extraordinary with letters from the king to the Sultan, Vizier and others. When Kentish reached Constantinople in April the matter of the carazo was already settled. The Vizier lent a sympathetic ear and admitted that grave injustice had been done about the archenda, but he advised them not to present the king's letters to the Sultan, so as not to put the Caimecam (the culprit) to open shame. That worthy, though very uneasy, endeavoured to make things safe by bribing freely in the seraglio. He hoped, by repeated delays, to avoid restitution altogether, as a change in the government might easily bring him into power again. Finally, in July, Garraway accompanied Kentish back to England without having obtained a penny. He did not even get the guarantee promised by the Venetian bailo. That astute individual, while admitting the obligation, raised all manner of excuses to delay payment, and haggled over the amount due. He hoped to avoid payment altogether if he could keep the matter going long enough, and he breathed a pious rejoicing when Garraway departed without having obtained any satisfaction (No. 844).

## VIII.

Gregorio Barbarigo, the new Venetian ambassador, arrived in England on Michaelmas Day, 1615, and had his first ceremonial audience on Nov. 11, the ceremony being delayed owing to the king's absence in the country. The same reason delayed the leave-taking of Foscarini, who may not have objected to an excuse for not returning at once to Venice. He took formal leave of the king, queen and prince almost immediately after, but when he was making his final preparations the king sent for him again to Newmarket. This and a bad cold delayed his departure until December 22nd. Gregorio

Barbarigo then remained in sole charge. Immediately upon his arrival he complained of a severe disorder, for which he was under treatment (No. 89) and apparently his health remained indifferent. On May 28th he fell seriously ill and on June 6th he died, leaving his secretary Lionello in charge of the embassy. Lionello was an able and capable man, whose despatches compare favourably with those of the best of his fellows, though he stumbled across a mare's nest now and then. He had already enjoyed some independent diplomatic experience in his embassy to Holland.

On learning of Barbarigo's death the Senate lost no time in selecting his successor. Their choice lighted upon Antonio Donato, quite a young man, a kinsman of the famous doge Lionardo Donato, who had withstood Paul V. At the time, however, Donato was serving as ambassador at Turin, where important events kept him busily employed. Lionello had expected to be relieved soon, but as month after month passed away he grew restive. The serious state of affairs in Italy required the presence of a fully equipped ambassador in London. King James took the long delay very ill; even the queen, when Scarnafes took leave, remarked how strange it was that Italy should be involved in serious war and yet take no account of a kingdom that could do so much (No. 806). Carleton in the Netherlands and Wake in Savoy both hinted that the Senate should send an ambassador without delay. Donato himself wrote in April, 1617, imploring that he might be allowed to go at once (No. 746). At length, when the pressure of events induced the Senate to send Lionello after the king to Scotland, a definite promise was given that an ambassador from Venice should be in London to meet the king on his return from Scotland, about September. On August 16th the Senate chose Lionardo Moro to act as ambassador in Savoy and relieve Donato, who was to proceed to England at once. Moro excused himself and said it was already impossible for

Donato to reach England in time. The Senate thereupon decided to choose an ambassador extraordinary, to act until Donato could leave. They first proposed Ottaviano Bon, who was then ambassador in France, and who could reach England without loss of time.<sup>o</sup> This proposal was not carried by the requisite majority, and they eventually selected Piero Contarini, but recently returned from his embassy in France, who received instructions to proceed to England without further loss of time.

Changes also took place in the English embassy at Venice. Carleton, who had already made one start for home, did not remain long after the completion of his negotiations in Savoy. On October 15th he took formal leave and announced that Sir Henry Wotton would succeed him, while Gregorio di Monti would remain in charge in the meantime. Two days later the Senate voted him a gold chain worth 1,000 crowns and indicted letters in his praise to the king.

Wotton did not leave England until March 28th and travelled out in very leisurely fashion, spending some time at Heidelberg and at Turin. The slowness of his journey at so critical a time excited remark and displeased Winwood (No. 300). At Turin he proposed to the duke a general league between England, the Netherlands, the Union, the Swiss, Venice and Savoy. The duke expressed his willingness, but said he must await the decision of Venice (No. 298). Wotton did not reach Venice before the middle of June, making his formal entry on the 19th and his first appearance in the College on the 27th. He did not settle down very readily and seems to have moved his quarters more than once. In October, 1616, he says that he is changing his house (No. 466), and in August, 1617, leave was granted to Gieronimo Venier to confer with him about letting his house (No. 848).†

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<sup>o</sup> Carleton appears to have heard a rumour in February that Bon would be sent on to England (No. 626).

† Mr. Pearsall Smith says that he settled first at the Grimani della Vida palace on the Grand Canal. *Life and Letters of Sir Henry Wotton*, i, p. 147.

In spite of the troubled affairs of Italy Wotton had no matters of great importance to handle. One of his very first acts was to propose such a league as he had already suggested to Savoy. The Senate returned a cautious, non-committal reply, which amounted to a refusal. They were very anxious to know how James would take it, and there can be little doubt but that he took it very ill. His resentment appeared later on, when Venice was asking him for a declaration in her favour. Failing in his efforts for a league Wotton urged the Senate to send a regular ambassador to the princes of the Union (No. 849).

The war between Venice and the Archduke Ferdinand brought numerous adventurers to offer their services to the republic. Several of these, both English and foreign, Wotton introduced, including Prince Francis Julius of Saxony, the duke of Holstein, the earl of Oxford, Lord Dingwall, Sir Thomas Gates and Captain Bell. He was also very anxious that Venice should employ English troops.

Among other matters Wotton took charge of the recovery of a debt of Giulio Muscorno for Sir William Smith. Before Muscorno left England he appears to have received a commission from the earl of Somerset to make certain purchases. To effect these he borrowed 150*l.* of his friend Smith (No. 712). Owing to the quarrel with Foscarini and the sudden departure of Muscorno for Venice these purchases were never made and the debt remained undischarged. Smith, who had information upon a leakage in Venetian secrets, used his knowledge as a lever to obtain repayment. He asked Lionello to keep the affair secret, as the discovery would ruin him, and Wotton was going to Venice with the intention to penetrate further into the matter (No. 341). Muscorno never made any attempt to evade his responsibility, and with every assistance afforded by the Venetian authorities, the only question was as to the

precise means of payment. Smith appointed as his agent Henry Parvis, a well-known English merchant at Venice. Wotton, however, had come to know of the matter and desired that the money should be paid to him and Smith himself wrote finally asking that this might be done (No. 711).

Wotton also had a hand in another mysterious affair. In the spring of 1617 he received a letter asking him to send his secretary to Milan, where he should ask for a certain person who would conduct him to the writer, who had important information nearly concerning the king of England. Wotton sent to Milan his secretary Richard Seamer, who met the person indicated and was conducted by him to the principal of the Jesuit College of San Fedele. This worthy told him that although a Catholic yet he was a man and evil deeds grieved him. So when he heard of a plot against the king's life, he wished to disclose it. He proposed that the secretary should accompany him to England for this purpose, but asked him to wait three days, as he could not leave at once. When Seamer returned the Jesuit asked him to wait another ten days, but the secretary suspected a trap and returned instead to Venice. Shortly after his return another letter arrived from Milan, regretting that the secretary had been so impatient, and asking him to meet the writer at Basel, with sufficient money to proceed to England. Wotton sent Seamer to Basel, whence he wrote back that he had met the Jesuit all right. Thereupon Wotton despatched a special courier to go straight to James in Scotland and announce the coming of the Jesuit. Wotton also wrote to his agent in London, who very imprudently let out enough to excite the liveliest curiosity and excitement in the capital (No. 807). The Jesuit reached London towards the end of June, accompanied by Seamer and a young English student from Milan, whom he brought on the pretext that he would be employed to advance the Catholic

religion in England (No. 814). James, rendered cautious by much experience, refused to give the Jesuit private audience, and appointed four persons to hear what he had to say. The Jesuit at first refused to tell anyone but the king, and remained at Greenwich, where he lived in the strictest seclusion by his own desire. Eventually, in August, he told his story, of a plot concocted in the lifetime of the Marshal of Ancre, in which the pope, the king of Spain and the queen of France had a share.\* The details of this plot belong to the following volume of this Calendar. Lionello seems to have thought seriously of the matter at first, and the Senate sent to Milan for information. Their resident reported that the Jesuit was suspected of a desire to change his religion and was considered a fugitive. The Jesuits at Milan were trying to hush the matter up (No. 867). The affair can hardly have done Wotton any good, and his enemies openly mocked at him.

It is difficult to form a just estimate of the standing of Wotton at this time either in England or in Venice. At his first audience he announced his intention of living more like a philosopher than a courtier, remaining quiet, without giving scandal or offence, at peace with every one (No. 335). Yet within six months the pope complained that he was seducing away Catholics, and instanced the archbishop of Spalato. The Senate replied that Wotton lived very quietly, both from his own nature and from hints which they had previously given him, and he was in no way responsible for the archbishop's behaviour (No. 546). It was possibly a misfortune for Wotton that Winwood, the secretary of state, was none

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\* It is worthy of note that Jacques Pierre speaks of a plot between the pope, emperor, kings of France, Spain and Poland, and some princes of Germany, but against Venice, not England (No. 902). An anonymous writer from Rome on 20 August, 1617, says that the pope did not wish the king of England to know what was then being done at Rome (No. 894).



too well disposed towards him. At the very outset he had commented on the slowness of Wotton's journey. Wotton made the king angry by not writing frequently enough, and he once left him without letters for seven weeks (No. 477). When he did write he fared little better, supplying too little matter with too much art. Winwood often left his letters two or three days unread, and then after perusing them, tossed them contemptuously aside (No. 862).

In Venice Wotton excited suspicion by a sudden intimacy with the Spanish ambassador Bedmar, whom he had not visited for a year (No. 812).<sup>\*</sup> Only a few weeks later Winwood privately spoke to Lionello about Wotton, saying that reports of the worst nature reached his ears daily charging him with bad faith and venality. Lionello made a guarded reply, saying he had heard nothing definite, though similar reports had reached his ears from Venice. By his subsequent remarks Lionello shows that he had the very poorest opinion of Wotton, and he adds that the king and Court shared the same views. He thought Wotton's failings were largely due to his poverty. He had only 800 crowns a year and was obliged to leave England because of his debts. He would do anything for money, and the Dutch thought he had sold himself to the Spaniards at the treaty of Xanten. He had grudges against both Savoy and Venice. The merchant Burlamacchi had refused to advance him any more money and he had appropriated the money paid to discharge Muscorno's debt† (No. 864). Lionello probably exaggerates, although we can hardly explain away all the facts of the indictment and attribute it purely to malice,

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<sup>\*</sup> Mr. Pearsall Smith (*Life of Wotton*, i. p. 158), says that Bedmar had taken special pains to gain Wotton's friendship. The particular reason for this interview seems to have been Bedmar's fear of the mob and his desire that the ambassadors should unite to ask for protection, since at another time the ambassadors of France and England might themselves become the objects of special animosity.

† Wotton detained it for the arrears of his salary (No. 748).

imagination and prejudice. The standard of honour among the public men of that day was not high, and Wotton appears to have been no better than his fellows.

### IX.

Since his accession to the English throne James had never re-visited his native land. In the autumn of 1616 he began to consider a journey thither, to carry out certain changes with the idea of assimilating Scotland to England as much as possible in laws, customs, and church matters, and to introduce a better feeling between the English and Scotch. The ill-feeling between the two nations still ran very high. Lionello noticed how large tracts of the country on either side of the border were waste and desert, owing to the constant fighting that had gone on there (No. 831). The Venetian ambassadors refer more than once to the mutual jealousy existing between the two races.

The king's project was not viewed with favour on either side of the Tweed. The treasury was empty and could not meet the slightest additional charge, while the Council dreaded the king's absence far away, with the continent in such a distracted state. The Scots feared the expense of entertaining the king and his following, which they understood would amount to some 5,000 persons.<sup>o</sup> They also looked very unfavourably upon James's proposed alterations, of which they already had a taste. Some of the leading Scottish noblemen and gentlemen crossed the sea on various pretexts, thinking it would be easier to destroy what had been done, after his Majesty's departure, than dispute with him when there (No. 718).

In religious matters the opposition was even more outspoken, especially on the part of the women, who cried out that they were trying to introduce popery. In some churches, where James had introduced organs, the people,

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<sup>o</sup>*Register of the Privy Council of Scotland, 1616-1619. Preface, page ix.*

unused to the music, began to dance, out of derision (No. 709). But the stronger the opposition the more James seemed determined upon his project. A strong party at court, joined by Edmondes on his return from France, tried to persuade the king not to go, but without the slightest effect. James sent to prison a man who said he would not go, and one day he drew his sword, cried out that they were traitors who said he would not go, and threatened to cut their heads off (No. 648). Although the whole Council went on their knees to beg him to stay, James started off on March 25th, 1617, the day originally appointed, in spite too of a letter from the earl of Mar saying that they could not possibly be ready in time.

It had proved most difficult to raise money for the journey. They estimated the expenses at half a million. To meet them they raised loans, sold lands and anticipated the customs revenue. James tried to induce the Dutch to advance money on the crown jewels, but they refused unless the jewels were sent across the sea, and the Council forbade that. The king hoped the citizens of London might guarantee the loan, but they were not eager to respond (No. 622). But money was raised somehow, and the funds augmented by the sale of dignities on the road (No. 741). Probably owing to these difficulties, the king only took with him a comparatively small train, not amounting to 500 persons (No. 709). Before he crossed the border he sent back for more money. He had already spent some 400,000 crowns chiefly in gifts to various persons (No. 771).

James intended to make four great changes in Scotland: to introduce the Anglican form of worship; to recover the wardship of minors, which he had sold; to assimilate the system of the administration of justice to the English model, and to look into the kingdom's finances, as he had received practically no revenue from Scotland since his accession to the English throne.

To facilitate the carrying out of these projects, James summoned a parliament to meet at Edinburgh at the end of May. The badness of the roads and the weather caused some delay, but in June the king entered Edinburgh amid great rejoicing, and the people granted him 80,000 crowns as an offering of welcome. The English were astonished at the display, as they thought the country had been much too poor to afford it. The English and Scots outwardly fraternised exceedingly well, but at heart they hated each other as cordially as ever.

The opposition in the country to James's proposals was so strong that even he hesitated. He thought at one time of abandoning the parliament altogether, but he judged it better to relinquish his designs. He duly opened parliament in state on the 27th June and began the proceedings with an eloquent address. He attended every day until the session ended on July 8th. He tried to secure the adoption of the Anglican ecclesiastical system and asked the nobles to restore to the bishops their goods, which the nobles had enjoyed for fifty years. Both these projects failed, though the parliament agreed to find some better livelihood for the clergy and consented to the bishops having seats in their body. In civil affairs some compromise was arranged, but nothing substantial was effected and the parliament broke up with feelings of mutual dissatisfaction (No. 831). Almost immediately afterwards James left Edinburgh for Falkland and spent the rest of his time in Scotland in travelling from place to place. By the end of August he had re-entered England and was travelling southwards to London. For all that he effected, says Lionello, he might as well have stayed at home.

During these years Ireland is described as quiet. The parliament there, before dissolving, made a grant to the king. There were indications, however, that if the surface might be quiet, simmering was going on beneath. At the beginning of 1617 a gentleman there hanged in his

garden some officials who came with orders from the Viceroy to hang a priest living secretly in his house (No. 610).

## X.

Despite much discouragement from James the old Elizabethan spirit of adventure was still strong in the nation. Many still yearned to strike a blow at Spain as in the good days of yore. In answer to enquires by the Senate as to the cost of hiring ships in England, Lionello states that if they bought or hired ships they would probably obtain but poor results at considerable outlay. If, on the other hand, they simply allowed privateers to use their flag, and permitted them to enter Venetian ports to sell their plunder, so many would offer their services that they would inflict great damage upon Spain, without the expenditure of a penny. The English plan was to divide the expenses into three parts and distribute the profits accordingly. "This is the way that England has become rich, and in which she would desire to continue to fight against the Spaniards, as private individuals are continually offering themselves to make war on the king of Spain" (No. 532). Although the count of Scarnafes obtained so little from James he succeeded in getting some service from the adventurers. He gave leave to an English pirate to take any Spanish ships he might capture to Villefranche to sell. Lord Rich obtained the same privilege and sent out three ships. The count did all this with the utmost secrecy, as the slightest suspicion of the truth would have greatly incensed the king (No. 631).

English soldiers were not so much valued as English sailors, as though valiant enough they objected to discomfort and were intemperate in their habits (No. 192). In the Friulian war several Englishmen offered their services, though only one or two were actually engaged. The earl of Oxford offered, and is mentioned as having

won great sums at play from the count of Nassau. The Venetians negotiated with Sir Thomas Stodder, an Englishman serving with the Austrians. Venice did not engage any force of Englishmen as such; they preferred to employ the Dutch. In March, 1617, they hired a force of 3,200 men under Count John Ernest of Nassau. With these, under the command of Sir John Vere, came a number of Englishmen of those who had been serving in the Netherlands. Wotton estimated them as 600, but as the list of captains only contains the names of two Englishmen and one Scot, this is probably an exaggeration (No. 679). The men reached Venice in April in very good condition and were forthwith sent up to the seat of war. There, despite some unruliness, attributable to the sudden change from small beer to wine (No. 740), they soon distinguished themselves.

The last of the great Elizabethan seamen had at length escaped from prison on the understanding that he should go to find a gold mine which he knew of in Guiana. Raleigh's heart never was in this undertaking, which he only accepted as a means of escape from the Tower. As early as May, 1616, he told Barbarigo that he would willingly go to serve Venice if he could obtain the king's permission (No. 295). At the beginning of 1617 he suggested to Scarnafes the remarkable scheme for striking a sudden blow at the Spanish power in Italy by seizing Genoa.\* The plan was elaborated in all its details and obviously attracted James, who told off Winwood and Edmondes to discuss the subject with Scarnafes. Very characteristically he wished to make sure that the risks were slight and that he should have his share of the booty. But after a few weeks the whole plan was abandoned. James felt he could not entrust a large force to the man he had treated so shamefully. Accordingly the preparations

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\* The Council of Ten considered it as Raleigh's proposal (No. 646); the despatches leave this point ambiguous.

for the Guiana expedition were steadily pushed forward. Sarmiento went twice to the Council to enter a protest. He said it would deeply offend his king to see his subjects illtreated by Raleigh; he produced a book describing two other voyages of Raleigh in the Indies, full of alleged cruelties committed by him. The Council replied the first time that Raleigh was going with limited commissions and the Catholic king should have no cause to complain. On the second occasion they got Winwood to tell the ambassador privately that he would do well to rest content with the first reply, as the king was set upon Raleigh making the voyage and if he overstepped his instructions his head would pay for his disobedience (No. 631). Lerma also made complaint in Spain, and Lord Roos on returning from his embassy was charged to make strong representations. In fact the Spaniards were greatly alarmed at the prospect of their old enemy getting loose upon the sea. Raleigh was not in love with his enterprise and would willingly have exchanged it for another, and his feelings were no secret (No. 726). In addition to his sailors he had 700 soldiers picked from the nobles and others who flocked to him. It was said that an equal number of ships was waiting to join him outside. "If that is true," says Lionello, "there is scarcely any project which he might not undertake with good hope of success" (No. 718). A very widespread impression existed that once he got well away to sea he would abandon the Guiana voyage and turn pirate on his own account; accordingly, when he sailed down the Thames in the spring of 1617, he left behind him a general curiosity as to what course he would pursue.

## XI.

One of the most alarming features of the time was the great increase in the numbers of the Barbary

pirates, who infested the Mediterranean and preyed upon all the commerce there. In December, 1615, an English ship which had sailed from London to Naples reported that there were 120 bertoncs between Algiers, Tunis and Bizerta (No. 123). English and Dutch captains trading in the Archipelago declared that it was impossible to voyage alone as they used on account of these pirates (No 160) The English losses were so severe that in March Pindar went to see the Captain of the Sea at Constantinople and spoke to him very plainly. He told him that 100 English ships had been taken near the Strait of Gibraltar in one year. Although he had frequently complained and received many promises it had done no good. They would have to take redress into their own hands and join with the French and Dutch, who suffered equally, and seize some place on the Turkish seaboard (No. 238). Some three months later the Dutch made a similar protest with a threat of reprisals (No. 312). However, these pirates were not by any means the only ones and the Turks could make a good case out of the damage inflicted on them by Frankish buccaneers. In November, 1616, the Vizier sent for Pindar at Constantinople and threatened to make him personally responsible for certain losses suffered by Turkish subjects (No. 514). We read also of an English pirate in the Downs and French and Spanish ones off the coast of Scotland.

In the absence of large, well-organised fleets the governments of the time could not cope with this evil. In May, 1617, ten pirate ships passed through the Strait of Gibraltar in full view of the royal fleet, entirely unmolested (No. 757). Shortly afterwards Cottington went to complain to Philip that although English merchants paid a very heavy custom for the protection of their shipping, they never obtained anything for it. His king had frequently thought of sending a fleet to those waters to check the audacity



of the pirates and had only refrained out of consideration for his Catholic Majesty (No. 794). Some time later the Spaniards even asked that the English ships in the port of Cadiz should accompany their fleet to the Indies to protect it from assault (No. 834).

The English merchants felt it incumbent upon them to do something to put a stop to this evil, and about October, 1615, the two principal companies decided with the help of the admiral to arm ships to extirpate the pirates. They proposed to arm from twelve to fifteen ships, with auxiliary craft, to scour the home waters, the coast of Spain and the western Mediterranean. They also desired privateers to join them, and suggested that former pirates who would assist should receive a free pardon. The king and Council agreed to the scheme, the necessary money was subscribed and all seemed satisfactorily arranged, but it fell through because the king of Spain would not grant the use of his ports to so large a foreign fleet, and because of the danger that the privateers might turn pirate on their own account (Nos. 73, 77).

In spite of this failure the scheme was revived in 1617. The merchants presented a memorial to the king showing that owing to the swarms of pirates trade in the east and south was almost ruined, and the mischief might easily spread to the Atlantic. They were willing to bear the brunt of the cost of a fleet, but they asked His Majesty to give them six of the ships of his fleet, munitions and other facilities. The merchants found a sum of 160,000 crowns to start with, and designated the earl of Southampton as their chosen commander. Lionello believed that they intended to prey generally upon the dominions and commerce of the Turks, as they contemplated the recall of their ambassador at Constantinople. Primarily, however, the expedition would have proceeded against Algiers and other haunts of the pirates on the north coast of Africa and would thus have anticipated by

almost exactly 200 years the work of Lord Exmouth. The Council debated the question very thoroughly, and it was hoped that the Dutch would join in. The whole thing broke down, however, partly because no power would admit so large a fleet to its ports, but chiefly because the merchants would not incur the expense unless they had facilities for obtaining men and ships, which the king would not grant, as he wished to keep the control for himself and his ministers, and he did not wish to entrust so large a force to Southampton (Nos. 741, 754, 771).

The royal navy by itself was in no condition to cope with the mischief. For practical purposes it remained useless, though some signs of activity appear from time to time. At the end of December, 1615, the captains of the royal navy received orders to remain with their ships (No. 137). In July, 1616, three ships were fitted out to put an end to the piracies off the Scottish coasts (No. 355). At the end of 1616 they paid 120,000 ducats to the men of the fleet, and orders were given for the equipment of the ships, so that they expected at least twenty would be ready by Easter (No. 530). But the money proved quite inadequate for the purpose, and in the exhausted state of the treasury it was not possible to find more (No. 601). Only shortly before Winwood had told Lionello that it would be very difficult to have the royal ships ready by the spring (No. 523). Only four or five ships were kept habitually armed for the various requirements of the king and kingdom (No. 581).

The real naval strength of England lay in her merchant fleets and the bold and experienced seamen who manned them. This power was fully recognised both at home and abroad. During the embassy of Roos at Madrid Lerma told him that if the king of Spain chose he could keep a force in the Strait of Gibraltar which would prevent James from sending help to Savoy. Roos answered that

his king was so powerful at sea that it would not be so easy to prevent the passage of his forces wherever he wished, and wars are also made by diversions (No. 650). Lerma was much annoyed, the more so because he felt the truth of the retort. When threatened by Ossuna's preparations at Naples the Venetians thought of obtaining ships from England, and sent word to their ambassador to make enquiries about probable cost and other particulars. Lionello recommended the employment of privateers or else to buy ships right out instead of hiring them. They could, however, be more cheaply obtained at Amsterdam, where the English themselves were accustomed to buy them. He added, "the English ships are better for the Mediterranean and more adapted for those other services for which your Excellencies may require them. The vessels of the more northern parts are excellent, as they stand higher out of the water than the others and they need nothing but artillery to fit them for the voyage and to be raised a little in the part above deck" (No. 624).

## XII.

English trade at Constantinople suffered severely owing to the tyrannical action of the officials and the losses by pirates, so much so that the Levant Company thought of abandoning it altogether, at least for a time. They also suspected that the jealousy of the Frankish merchants increased their difficulties and that one of the ambassadors at least was secretly working against them (No. 745).<sup>\*</sup> By a return made in February, 1617, of the Franks at Constantinople subject to the *carazo*, i.e., who had resided for a year or more, they found there were 92 Venetians, 18 French, 20 English, and 12 Dutch (No. 636). The trade was lucrative, as we see from the

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<sup>\*</sup> "It seems the emperor's ambassadors' treaty hath done us no good, and as you say, likely some other ambassador there works underhand against us." The merchants in London to Pindar, 14 Jan., 1616 o.s. *State Papers, Foreign, Levant Co.* Letter Book.

large fortune possessed by Garraway, whose sudden ruin also illustrates the uncertain tenure by which it was held.

English trade in the Mediterranean was undoubtedly growing, the chief centre being Zante, where nearly everything was in the hands of the English and Dutch. At Zante a considerable contraband re-export trade had grown up, in oil, cheese, cordovan leather and wool bought in the Morea and Corfu. The Senate wished these commodities to be brought first to Venice, and they therefore proposed to impose a heavy export duty to prevent ships from taking them to the west (No. 713). A severe outbreak of the plague at Zante in the middle of 1617 nearly brought all trade there to a complete standstill. But not absolutely, as it was in English ships that Venice sent help to the stricken island, and in August we find Richard Beresford and John Wild appointed to look after the interests of the Levant Company there (No. 880).

Trade actually in Venetian hands was disappearing. The exemption granted to Venetian ships from the custom of wine was abolished because the Venetian ships could not cope with the work in the ports of the Levant, and nothing would be gained by diverting them to the west to the detriment of the customs (No. 3). In London only one Venetian merchant survived, Federici, and he was a discredited bankrupt. Almost all Venetian affairs in England were in the hands of Flemings (p. 603). Some Englishmen did well out of it, however, as we find it stated that Thomas Heale, of Devon, traded at Venice for the sum of over 100,000*l.* yearly (No. 587).

Largely, no doubt, owing to the constant difficulties with Turkey, English merchants listened with great interest to a proposal of Sir Thomas Roe, then envoy in India, to bring silk direct to England by sea from Persia. The chief difficulty would be in providing the three or four millions necessary to purchase the silk for the first year, but the king of Persia offered to advance that sum for

a year on sufficient security (No. 622). Pindar, however, ridiculed the whole idea as a chimera of Roe's brain, since the difficulties of collecting the silk, which could only be obtained in small quantities, would prove too great (No. 745).

The main particulars of the dispute with the Dutch about dyed cloth are fully given by Professor Gardiner.\* These despatches add a few details. By November, 1616, the distress occasioned by the measures taken by the two governments had become acute, and there was a great outcry from those who had been thrown out of work. The Council looked about for remedies and suggested a prohibition of silk. They also looked for a place on the continent to serve as a mart for English goods, as Middelburg had been before the dispute. Their eyes turned towards Villefranche or Nice. Lionello greatly feared that Savoy might be tempted and so forfeit the sympathy of the Dutch. Sarmiento, who perceived an excellent opportunity for embroiling the English and Dutch, suggested that Flanders should be open to receive English cloth (No. 577). The Dutch appointed commissioners to discuss this and other matters in England, but there the pinch had been too cruelly felt, and it was thought prudent to yield. The new company was dissolved and the old one reinstated, although the proclamation for the latter was not issued till August (No. 602 and note). The commissioners did not come over (No. 607).

### XIII.

The Autumn of 1615 witnessed the fall of the favourite Carr. The Venetian ambassadors did not obtain information till late. The first intimation is in October, when Foscarini speaks of serious disputes in the Council, the earl of Somerset and the Treasurer against all the rest, backed by the queen (No. 63). They do not add

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\* *Hist. of Eng.* ii, pp. 385 *et seqq.*

much to our knowledge of this *cause celebre*. On November 13 Lord Wotton waited on Somerset and in the king's name demanded of him the seals of his office and the Lord Chamberlain's staff. Somerset gave him the seals and told him to take the staff, which stood in a corner of the room. Wotton insisted that Somerset should hand him the staff in accordance with the king's command (No. 95). After the trial and sentence Barbarigo believed that neither the earl nor countess would receive any grace except the axe instead of the rope. The sentences were, however, remitted, and Lionello suggests that they might not even have to spend the rest of their lives in the Tower. The king received an anonymous letter moralising on Somerset's fall and saying he had been sacrificed to Arundel, Pembroke and Southampton (No. 340).

Throughout the trial Barbarigo was convinced that something more important than Overbury's murder lay behind it all. One of the leading councillors told him that the most important documents had found their way into Philip's hands (No. 90). Digby, in 1614, had told the king that all his most intimate secrets were revealed at Madrid, but he had not then ventured to accuse the favourite (No. 119). In January, Barbarigo speaks of a second trial upon the treasonable relations \* with Spain (No. 163). After the final sentence Lionello states that although there were other important matters, such as treason and betrayal, yet they preferred to condemn Somerset for the murder alone, in order not to publish secrets to the people at a time when negotiations were proceeding for a marriage with Spain (No. 306). The Venetians hoped that these disclosures and the fall of Somerset would destroy Spanish influence in England. But a man like Sarmiento never gave up hope. He exercised a great influence with the king and spent money freely among the courtiers. Somerset had been in his pay. He brought 90,000*l*.

to England with him. In 1615 he received 30,000*l.* from home, followed by another 20,000*l.* (No. 137). He spent 150,000 crowns a year in pensions at the Court (No. 312), and when Roos went to Spain he borrowed 16,000 crowns of him for the purpose of bribery (No. 524). It is remarkable that he refused to pay the pensions of those Catholics who took the oath of allegiance (No. 458).

The place vacated by Carr was soon filled by George Villiers, who rose even more rapidly in the king's favour. In January, 1616, he became Master of the Horse and Viscount Leicester; in May he received the Garter; in January, 1617, he was created earl of Buckingham. In February he entered the English Privy Council and in June the Scottish, the first Englishman to receive the honour. He was the one infallible means of obtaining anything from the king (No. 828). After a year of the king's favour he had acquired an income of 80,000 crowns a year, an immense quantity of money and jewels and the highest offices and dignities of the realm (No. 567). So far he received no great administrative office. After Somerset's fall the office of Secretary of State was shared by Lake and Winwood, the former for home and the latter for foreign affairs. Lake was secretly a Catholic, a strong adherent of the Spanish party and in the confidence of Sarmiento (No. 330). Winwood was a sturdy Protestant and strongly anti-Spanish. In a moment of impatience Lionello calls him ignorant and obstinate (No. 556), but he admits him to be the chief hope of the opponents of Spain (No. 816).

Although Sarmiento thought it worth his while to court the queen, she possessed no influence. Upon the Spanish marriage she blew alternately hot and cold. She hated the Dutch and was much incensed by a caricature of the king of Denmark published in the Netherlands. She liked to receive the ambassadors, but her constant ill-health often interfered with audiences. When the king

left for Scotland she was nominated one of the Council to govern England, but she never attended.

Prince Charles comes more and more into public notice. In July, 1616, he was admitted to the Privy Council and in November he was created Prince of Wales with great ceremony. He cultivated the habit of talking with the diplomatists and usually gave the king a written account of the interview (No. 483). The king did not like him to leave his side or to run into the slightest danger, and even objected to his attending a review (No. 54).

The king's financial difficulties continued to increase in spite of various attempts to raise money. The unpopular sale of the Cautionary towns was simply for the sake of the ready money, and it served to raise his credit for a while, though most of the money was squandered. There was only one effective way out of the difficulty and that was to summon a parliament. In October, 1616, James actually proposed this to the Council (No. 53). It met with the usual opposition from interested parties, but after the fall of Somerset, Barbarigo thought a parliament certain, and by December 25th the Council had actually issued orders for one to assemble. The people, said Barbarigo, would never refuse money for purposes honourable to the country (No. 129). However, when James returned from Newmarket to London, the subject dropped and nothing more was heard of it (No. 163). The subject was not revived till August, 1617, when the king's debts amounted to three millions, and he hoped to use the threat of a Spanish marriage to obtain a liberal grant (No. 862). But James really dreaded a parliament more and more. Though it pleased him to boast of the loyalty of his people, he was sensible of the growing discontent with his proceedings, and that a high-spirited people might only need leaders to break into open revolt (No. 456). Even in Scotland it seemed that only the absence of powerful nobles to act as leaders prevented a rising (No. 709), and a rebellion actually broke out in the Highlands.



## XIV.

The case of Antonio Foscari and Giulio Muscorno excited a good deal of interest in England. The news of Muscorno's arrest created quite a stir at Court. Foscari busily accumulated evidence against him, but he does not appear to have felt his own danger, though he thought it strange that he received no additional honour from home after so long a service. By degrees he came to realise that he must expect a reception of quite another character. Before he left, James showed him considerable attention, but he must have travelled with a mind full of misgiving. He passed through France and Savoy, but avoided Milan, where the governor might preserve too lively a recollection of a certain kicking along a corridor.\* On reaching Venice he was immediately arrested. An indictment of more than 80 counts was drawn up against him. Many of the charges are preposterous and utterly incredible, and at the worst they leave the impression that if he was indiscreet he was guilty of no serious crimes. His case must have suffered serious prejudice for a time by the discovery that copies of his despatches had got into the hands of the ambassadors of France and Spain. When this was cleared up, however, it appeared that he was in no wise to blame.

## XV.

There only remains space to briefly indicate a number of other subjects calling for remark: the disgrace of Coke and its causes; the death of Arabella Stuart; the coming to England of the archbishop of Spalato; the outbreak of an Englishman at Rome, who smashed the pope's portrait; the objection of the pope to the decision of Venice to allow a doctor to grant degrees at Padua without requiring a profession of faith; two cases of private war, one in England and one in Scotland

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\* Don Pedro when in Paris had insulted Foscari, then ambassador there, with the above result.

(Nos. 458, 726); a brawl in the city against the French ambassador; the vindication by Digby of the right of asylum at his embassy at Madrid; the fear of a Spanish invasion of England during the king's absence in Scotland; the present to the queen of ten mares in foal from Denmark, to improve the breed of horses in England, and so forth. We learn that the Venetian Ambassador Giustinian attended a performance of *Pericles* in London, accompanied by the ambassadors of France and Florence, and that the entertainment cost him more than 20 crowns. Foscarini only went three or four times to the play, but then he did not understand a word of English. To judge by his spelling of French proper names his acquaintance with that language was hardly more extensive.

I am indebted to my friend. Dr. Arnold Meyer, of the Prussian School at Rome, for the names and titles of the nuncios mentioned in the volume. I must also thank Commendatore Malagola and his staff at the Archives at Venice for their never-failing courtesy and attention.

ALLEN B. HINDS.

January, 1908.

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## CORRIGENDA.

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- Page 82, line 26, *for* Pinquente *read* Pinguente.
- „ 187, line 16, *for* Francesso *read* Francesco.
- „ 202, margin, *for* Svizzesi *read* Svizzeri.
- „ 208, last line but one, *for* 20th *read* 28th.
- „ 329, line 39, *for* observes, *read* observers.
- „ 336, line 23, *for* impassible *read* impassable.
- „ 344, first note line three, *for* earl male *read* heir male.
- „ 398, margin, *delete* Savoia.
- „ 425, line 14, *for* iufluence *read* influence.
- „ 434, note, line 1, *for* del *read* dal.
- „ 440, transfer inverted commas from after 'read' at line 11 to  
after 'applied to' at line 7.
- „ 449, line 14, *for* Endeavors *read* Endeavours.
- „ 455, line 14, *for* Cernignano *read* Cervignano.
- „ 461, line 6 from bottom, *for* Heven *read* Steven.
- „ 463, line 15, *for* Ambassador *read* Ambassadors.



# CALENDAR

## OF

### STATE PAPERS—VENICE.

A.D. 1615.

1615.

Sept. 1.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

1. RANIER ZEN, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The prince of Saxony remains here, somewhat sick but not seriously. He sent for me and I called and delivered what I was instructed to say to him. He thanked me but in few words, as he is not used to indulging in compliments and he was not feeling well. I believe that the duke does not see an opportunity of releasing himself and he does not know how to act. The resident of England told me that the duke had said to him that he was awaiting this reply and he had written a letter to your Serenity. He showed this letter to the resident and asked him if he should send it. The resident advised him not to, but to wait for a general reply in favourable terms; your Serenity had a good memory and would employ him when occasion served, because you had said the same to the Prince Joinville (*Gianrelle*) who also wished for a command. He desired the English ambassador to present and recommend him, but he had excused himself saying that by command of the king he had to present a baron of the kingdom,\* who also offered himself for a command in the service of your Excellencies.

Turin, the 1st September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 1.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

2. RANIER ZEN, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The count of Verua has been to see me. He spoke indignantly of Fresia. He said that His Highness had remarked that both the French and Spaniards will be against him and he will be left between them, and the king of England, who ought to move under such circumstances, remains motionless and it is not known whether he will do anything. He went on to say to me in the

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\* Probably Richard Preston, lord Dingwall.

1615.

strictest confidence: We understand that he is the one who protects states and counsels peace. This is due to his nature, which is ill fitted for fighting, and to his ministers, who are all corrupted by the Spaniards, who encourage him with hopes of a marriage with a large sum of money as dower, and in short nothing but words can be expected from that quarter, and so His Highness will do well to go circumspectly. *The duke had done ill in not allowing his ambassadors to follow the queen. The count advised him to send one now, to serve as a spy as Rambouillet had done here, and to act with either side as each should prosper. Whatever else he did might be under the pretext of paying back the king of England the 50,000 ducats given to his ambassador, so that he should give them to the Princes or send 25,000 to the assembly. The completion of these marriages may lead to the duke being deprived of his state.*

Turin, the 1st September, 1615.

*[Italian; the part in italics deciphered.]*

Sept. 2.  
Cinque Savii  
Alla  
Mercantia.  
Bisposte.  
Venetian  
Archives.

3. Giacomo Zane, Proveditore General, and Francesco Morosini, Captain of Candia, represent that if Venetian vessels are exempt from the new impost of 6 ducats a cask of wine taken west, any subject of your Serenity may buy foreign ships and make them Venetian, and so evade the custom to the notable loss of the same, as their gain thereby will easily recoup them for the cost of the ship; and they suggest that this exemption should be revoked and that all vessels should pay alike. In reply to the commissions of your Serenity of the 2nd and 23 August last, we reply that as with regard to the new custom of Zante, we advised that raisins laded upon Venetian ships should pay the new custom, so we think the same should be done for the wines of Candia, as in addition to the reasons set forth and besides the preservation of the custom, Venetian trade is low and the number of Venetian ships is diminished, so that those at present in existence cannot nearly do the necessary work on the ports of the Levant, which enriches individuals and swells the customs. We do not think it useful to encourage our ships to trade with the west, because if the few which remain were uselessly employed in carrying wine and other goods of great bulk and very slight value they would deprive the community of the custom and would derive a very uncertain advantage for individuals, as if there were no Venetian vessels left for the ports of Syria, Alexandria and Constantinople, that important trade would be suspended or this market would be obliged to freight foreign ships, with the obvious risk that by adventuring 4 or 500,000 ducats on one vessel, the little capital that remains to us might be carried off to Barbary or to some other place to the loss and shame of the city. We therefore advise that the new custom be paid henceforth indifferently by all.

Carlo Buzini.

Alvise da Ponte.

Giovanni Francesco Sagredo.

*[Italian.]*

1615.

Sept. 4.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra  
Venetian  
Archives.

4. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Thank God I am now free from fever, though very weak. I will make good my deficiencies of last week. Five companies of horse of the margrave of Brandenburg and three of foot passed the Rhine towards Mulheim. This has agitated the neighbouring country and there were rumours at Cologne that a body of 4,000 infantry, 600 horse and four pieces of artillery was marching in order to effect some surprise. The magistrates of Cologne have added five companies to the three which they kept during the night for the protection of that town. The Elector hearing that a fort was to be made at Deutz, straightway sent two hundred musketeers and the Spaniards have thrown three hundred men into Syburg to reinforce the garrison there, as they fear that this enterprise may be directed against that place, although the rumour favoured Mulheim (*Mulei*) to prevent the demolition of the houses there. At Maastricht they are assembling the troops of the Archduke, and in the neighbouring country they are preparing quarters for the soldiers. The States have conceived the suspicion that this is for the siege of Juliers or for some other undertaking. Accordingly they have despatched Count Henry to review and put in trim the troops on that frontier, and will send others as may be thought necessary. I have all this from letters received last week.

The negotiations for the restoration of the places remain as I reported; there is no sign of agreement. I am assured that Wotton, who has been ambassador for a long while in Holland expressly for this, will be here in a few days and the ambassador of the States is going home. He has been to-day to bid me farewell and he will sail on Monday.

I have letters from the Hague and I hear from the ambassador of Brandenburg that on the 24th ult. the ambassador Wotton was present at the assembly of the States. He said he was going to depart and take leave. He complained that the proposition of His Majesty about signing the document with the archduke for the restitution of the places had been sent to each of the provinces, that is to say that it was shelved. He foretold trouble and added that His Majesty will be offended. He began formally saying that he was commissioned by his king to protest, though in a friendly way, and continued in the manner I have indicated. There has not been time to learn the reply; it will be easy to find out. The ambassador is certain to be here next week, as I have said.

At Brussels they have learned with great displeasure of the surprises effected by Brandenburg and the States, which I reported. No other movement is reported, however, except the gathering of the troops at Maastricht, which I wrote of, which has possibly arisen from this.

The States have sent three ambassadors to arrange the differences between Sweden and Muscovy. There was some idea that they should go through the country of Brandenburg, to perform an office with the Elector touching Juliers and Cleves. The Prince desired this and offered to send an envoy of his own.

1615.

It has since been decided that they shall go by sea, and they are all ready to set sail.

London, the 4th September, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 5.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

5. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The gentleman who, as I wrote a week ago, had been sent to the king by the Prince of Conde, has informed His Majesty of the prince's supporters. They are Bouillon, Mayenne, Longueville, Saint Paul, Tingry and Nevers, although the last does not declare himself. Moreover the duke of Guise begins to incline towards this side. With respect to places they have Sedan, Coucy (*Causi*), Soissons, Corbie, *Calais and four others*, the governors of which have not yet declared themselves. In addition there are all the places of surety held by those of the religion in France, who are with them to a man. To prove this he showed His Majesty that their remonstrances to the king are precisely the same as their own demands. He also showed him the offers made to them by those of the religion. He asked advice of His Majesty, said that he was sure, in case of need, of his assistance, and if they are forced they will have recourse to him. Meanwhile he asked him to write energetically to his ambassadors to induce those of the religion to engage with the States of Holland and the Princes of Germany, his allies, to render mutual assistance and to make repeated and strenuous offices with their Most Christian Majesties, declaring his position.

The king praised the efforts to do what was possible to prevent the marriages, remove disorder and introduce a better government in France. He promised to send new instructions, which he has done, and to perform all the offices together, this also he has done. Accordingly this gentleman has recrossed the sea well content, with letters of the king in reply to the Princes.

The marquise of Bonnivet was here on his way back from seeing the king, and came immediately to see me, bringing Boislorée (*Buioleze*) with him. From his lips I gathered a great part of the matters I am writing and the confirmation of what I wrote last week. He impressed upon me the importance of the marriages, and if they take place the ruler of France will not be Louis, who is a child, but Philip and the Council of Spain. He pointed out with what ease the Spaniards will be able to compass their designs everywhere, and he enlarged upon the prejudice which all the friends of France will suffer. He said that the king is well aware of this, and is acting judiciously, the united Princes of Germany are doing so likewise, and the States will follow suit. He said that it should affect your Excellencies also, pointing out that you ought to lend a hand for the sake of your own interests. I confined myself rigidly to general terms, using courteous phrases whenever I had an opportunity, and thereby I gained time and avoided giving offence or committing myself.

London, the 4 September, 1615.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]



1615.  
Sept. 4.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

6. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the  
DOGE and SENATE.

The duke of Longueville owns the district of Neuchâtel in the canton of Berne. From this, besides other advantages, he can draw whenever necessary three to four thousand Swiss, who are bound to serve him where and against whom he wishes, for four months without any wages. He can also have a greater number by paying them. The marquis of Bonnivet, when giving me the enclosed letter of His Majesty, said that the duke would willingly hire this district to your Serenity for two or three thousand crowns and would at the same time bind his possessions elsewhere. I listened to him in my most courteous manner and promised to lay everything before your Excellencies. Afterwards, in the course of the conversation, I remarked that it might possibly be more advantageous for the duke to sell it right out to your Excellencies. He said that he would write about it. It seems that if this district comes into the hands of your Excellencies you would never be without a good number of Swiss soldiers, who could at any rate come through by twos and threes, you would have the advantage of the ancient and established confederation which that country enjoys with Berne and the other Cantons without any fear or danger that it might be broken or disturbed, and by possessing an estate among the Swiss you would acquire authority with that nation. On all these accounts you could not perhaps employ 400,000 crowns more or less to better advantage. This might be the cost, and if you spent two or three hundred thousand, as the duke is poor, it is probable that he would find it easier to take them from others than to give them back. I mention this as a humble expression of what occurs to me.

As soon as I have acquired a little strength I will go to the king and execute the commands of your Excellencies, contained in your letters of the 24 July. I should have done this before if I had been well. I will send you word of what His Majesty says to me, and I will also inform you if the marquis says anything about a free sale or otherwise by the duke, by the next ordinary. A person who is intimate with the duke and also with the marquis told me that he is negotiating about this with others, without entering into further particulars. I write this as I hear it.

London, the 4 September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

7. Letter of KING JAMES to the AMBASSADOR FOSCARINI.

Recommendation of the marquis of Bonnivet, with request to listen favourably to the cause which he will set forth. This will give great satisfaction to the king and he hopes that it will not be displeasing to the doge or to the republic.

Dated at Lulworth, the 13 August, 1615.

[*Latin.*]

1615.

Sept. 4.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

8. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I hear on good authority that the person sent by the king to France has been detained. His Majesty has displayed great resentment at this. He has sent to summon the marquis of Bonnivet, who set out post.

A courier has arrived in haste from Spain for the ambassador. He brings word of the decision to change the Governor of Milan and of the dissatisfaction with which they regard the agreement and peace with Savoy. On the road he fell in with their Most Christian Majesties and reports that at this moment they are near Bordeaux. In my present condition I have been unable to discover the cause of his mission.

The Spanish ambassador has returned to the city; he had been away a good many days with the ambassador of Flanders.

The remark thrown out by the king's secretary to the resident of Florence with regard to the marriages with Spain has induced the Grand Duke to direct his resident to call upon the ambassador and to keep up a good understanding with him. If His Highness should decide to pay dower in ready money and to a much larger amount than is customary, it would possibly be no great wonder if Savoy should give ear and consent.

The ambassador of Savoy with your Excellencies has written to this ambassador in praise of your Excellencies. He speaks of the debt which the duke owes to you for your promise of assistance if the Spaniards should break their word, and calls it unexampled.

The French ambassador has recently been to call upon me, as have all the other ambassadors, with a great show of friendship and esteem. In speaking of the marriages which are in negotiation here, he said clearly that he will not speak of them unless he is provoked to do so, and in reply.

We hear that at Amiens the people have been deprived of their arms, and a certain number of troops have been posted on the frontiers of Flanders, which are said to be of several nationalities.

At the numerous opportunities which have recently presented themselves I have indulged in fitting praise of the Illustrious Barbarigo, whose arrival, whenever it may take place, will be prepared for by a universal sentiment in his favour.

London, the 4th September, 1615.

[Italian.]

Sept. 4.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacoi.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

9. GIOVANNI RIZZARDO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

*By the ordinary of yesterday the news arrived here of the arrest of Sig. Moscorino and was immediately made public. How it was received at the King's court I have not been able to learn, as His Majesty and the Queen are still in progress.\* Various discussions take place about it here, but as they know that action was taken by the Signory, they feel*

\* James was in Northamptonshire. He reached Windsor on 7 September, o.s. See Nichols. *Progresses of James I.*, iii, pp. 98, 99.

1615.

*that owing to the gravity of the matter the reasons cannot yet be learned. I have heard nothing in this connection worthy of the notice of your Excellencies except that the Chaplain Morario and Sig. Nicolo Dolfino in speaking upon the subject have come to tell me that Moscorino had several times uttered the threat that if the ambassador would not let him alone he would have his head chopped off (se il Sig. Amb. non mi lasciera stare li faro batter via la testa). When I asked them if he had ever said or hinted at the grounds of this attitude of his, if there could be anything in the ambassador which deserved this or anything like it, I could obtain nothing from them except that at other times Moscorino had said that he could prove more than forty different things written by the ambassador to the republic to be contrary to the truth. All this, which these gentlemen told me, they also said to Sig. Tomaso Morosini, son of the Most Illustrious Sig. Francesco, who was here. I obtained it from them in confidence, under pretext of curiosity, but I could get no more out of them with all my efforts. I was told by the said Morario, in speaking upon the same subject, that Sig. Nicolo Dolfino made a promise to Moscorino touching the matters and disputes between him and the ambassador owing to the great pressure brought to bear upon him by Moscorino, to whom he was under an obligation, so that he possibly had not the use of his free and unbiassed judgment at the time, as is frequently the case here by the custom of the country. Dolfino afterwards repented of having given his word, and begged the Secretary to release him, but the latter said he would have him quartered, and afterwards swore he would do so. Morario said that he also had made a promise, but his was straightforward and of small importance, although now he sees the designs of Moscorino he would not have made it if he had known.*

*By the same ordinary His Excellency has received news and letters from the Ambassador Barbarigo, and the Secretary Lionello, who will arrive here in about five or six days. The ambassador should leave here about the end of October, at least, as the Queen will not come to this city until Michaelmas.*

*London, the 4 September, 1615.*

*[Italian; deciphered.]*

Sept. 6.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**10. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador designate to England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

After I finally took leave of the Swiss, I continued my journey towards England and reached this city yesterday evening. In passing through Basel I did not fail to express the esteem of your Excellencies for that city. They were evidently pleased and said they would miss no opportunity of displaying their friendship. The margrave of Baden, having heard of my journey through his country, sent his carriages and some of his principal gentlemen to meet me at Zurlach, and showed me every honour. He asked me about the Grisons and the league with the two cities. I replied that I hoped that time would show the Grisons the sincere intentions of your Serenity and that nothing would act more beneficially towards the settling of disputes and removing difficulties than the resolve of the heads of the two cities to declare a free passage by virtue of their

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league. I thanked him for his good offices with the two cities; he told me that he had been informed of everything and would always do what he could in the service of your Serenity. He went on to say that the Princes of Germany and himself in particular will always be most ready to act together in the service of the republic when occasion requires, and he had no more heartfelt desire than to bring up his sons so that they may serve your Serenity. I thanked him in fitting terms.

The Elector Palatine has been going through the upper Palatinate these last six weeks, and only two days before my arrival he had returned to Heidelberg with the princess. He sent instructions to his governors on the Rhine to advise him of my passage, and he sent for me from Mannheim, where a very strong fortress is being built to defend the country. He received me with every honour, and with the princess enquired after the ministers of the republic, asking whether the Ambassador Foscarini would take this route on his return. They asked me to send the enclosed letters to your Serenity. From what I could gather they are much irritated at the opposition offered to your Serenity in the matter of the Grisons, especially by France. Some of the chief ministers told me that these same French have given out that all the trouble has arisen from your Serenity, and they said that the Spaniards also prevented a settlement both on account of the affairs of Germany and of those of Italy.

In the neighbourhood of the Rhine I met no other princes, as the Elector of Mayence was at Havenberg, where he resides for a great part of the year, and the Elector of Cologne was away hunting, quite four or five days off.

Cologne, the 6 September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

11. LETTER of the PRINCESS ELIZABETH to the DOGE.

Acknowledgment of the letters presented by the Ambassador Barbarigo, who worthily discharged his office, with an assurance of friendship.

Heidelberg, the 20 August, 1615.

[*French.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

12. LETTER of FREDERICK, ELECTOR PALATINE, to the KING.

Notification of audience given to the Ambassador Barbarigo and the reception of his letters of credence. Assurance that he will carry out all that he has promised to the ambassador.

Heidelberg, the 20 August, 1615.

[*Latin.*]

Sept. 6.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispositi,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

13. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador designate for England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

In my passage through some of the principal parts of Germany I have had little opportunity to observe anything fresh in the country. All are anxious to see what is going to happen in France,

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as the Spaniards are freed from their preoccupations in Italy, and what line the prince of Condé will take. Wherever I have passed the people could not bestow sufficient praise upon the troops led by Count John of Nassau for the service of the duke of Savoy, which were taken from the flower of both armies of Flanders, and were disbanded after the treaty. If they were still together it is considered certain that they would have gone to Flanders. It is said that Count John is to enter the service of the prince of Condé and the other Princes of France, and they are reported from various sources to be collecting troops.

Yesterday the Count of Witgenstein (*Witgenstein*) passed incognito through this city. He has orders from them to raise 600 horse and that done to at once raise 600 others, and I hear he has already enlisted several, giving them 30 thalers hire per horse. I do not know whence he obtained the money, but have been told that the princes have some provision and that 400,000 crowns have been sent to Sedan.

The queen has obtained from the States 700 pieces of armour and 800 muskets to arm her troops, it is not known to what end. The States are more interested in her party than in that of the Princes. Neither the latter nor the Princes of Germany make any public display of their intentions. Meanwhile all things are being closely watched and the effectuation of the marriages causes ever greater dissatisfaction. The justification and protest published by the prince of Condé has been considered full of high resolution, and the decision of the clergy of France to accept the Council of Trent is much commented upon. The agent of the States in this city told me that in France those of the religion have been rendered highly suspicious by these marriages and at the closing of the assembly they sent their deputies to their Majesties. When they found that they had left Paris they followed the court, but it is thought they will be heard later. They are to make serious requests, which will be but little to the queen's taste. They will ask their Majesties to establish as a fundamental law of the kingdom the doctrine of the supremacy of the king in temporal matters, and with regard to the attempts upon the life of His Majesty, in accordance with the *cahiers* presented by the third Estate, to regulate disorders according to the remonstrances of the parliament, and to give satisfaction to the instances of the prince of Condé. They will ask that some place of security on this side of the Loire may be given to them and a declaration made that they are not considered to be heretics, as the king at his consecration swore to exterminate the heretics, and that enquiry be made concerning the death of the late king and the guilty punished.

There is some proposal about introducing Spanish troops into France with the coming of the new queen. It is said that His Catholic Majesty has made some provision for this in Spain, and also that some have been introduced into Amiens from Flanders.

News has reached Holland that in Portugal the king had arrested eighty ships for his service and that forty of them were Dutch.

The United princes of Germany and the States are greatly displeased that the duke of Brunswick should subdue the city of Brunswick, in accordance with his ancient pretensions. He presses

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it hard, but it is thought he will have great difficulty in taking it owing to its alliance with the Hanse towns. As things are, if some means of accommodation be not found, great harm must come to Germany. It is hoped that some prince will find a way of avoiding this beginning of a conflagration, especially the King of Great Britain and the States.

I hear that Sir [Henry] Wotton has recently left the Hague and returned to England, not perceiving any present hope of carrying into effect the treaty of Santen. All parties continue to fortify their position and there are no further hostilities. The marquis of Spinola recently inspected all the fortresses. The Spaniards say that they will willingly withdraw their troops from the country of Cleves, but they wish the States to do the same, not only in execution of the treaty of Santen but out of obedience to the Imperial commands, which the States will in no wise recognize.

Cologne, the 6 September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 8.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

14. RANIER ZEN, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The day after my last despatch the duke sent for me and said he was expecting news from France, and, though it had not arrived, he still wished to speak with me. He felt sure that if the Princes were not assisted they would fail. England ought to move, but he did not know what they would do. The 50,000 ducats received from that king and given to Mayenne will have served for that purpose, as that had done but little good for him. He believed that about 30,000 ducats in addition would reach the Princes from that source, but it was a small sum when compared with the emergency, and only served for a beginning.

Turin, the 8th September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 11.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

15. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have begun to leave the house. I returned the visit of the various ambassadors and have also taken pains to discover what is taking place. Besides what I have written to your Excellencies touching the affairs of France, which has all been confirmed as true, I have learned that the king was informed that he would be constituted arbiter and asked to deal with the princes so that they should make no surprise or attempt, promising that their Most Christian Majesties would do nothing against them. After the demolition of the castle of Hardelet (*Argolot*) and other breaches of the promise given to him, the king showed his displeasure. The person whom he sent and who was detained is a cousin of the earl of Pembroke, and the detention took place at Boulogne.\* His second letter was written four days after the first. The first relates

\* Mr. Henry Herbert. His release was demanded by James. See *State Papers, Foreign, France*, Vol. 63, 25 Aug. 1615.

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that they began to strip him of his doublet and continued down to his feet; that they found nothing except the letter packet of His Majesty for the ambassador, and his passport. That they had taken both from him, saying that they wished to make sure that the passport was good, and that he has sent the letters in duplicate. The second relates that he still remains a prisoner. Assuredly His Majesty will instruct his ambassador to go to their Majesties and pass those resolute and energetic offices which I reported. I do not know if the letters containing such orders have been intercepted and I do not believe it, as almost at the very time of the departure of the person detained another person was sent by way of Etaples, who is believed to have arrived safely.\* The castle of Etaples, according to the last advices, remained faithful to the marquis, and his father-in-law had entered it with a good force. The marquis of Bonnivet remains with the king and Boislорée remains here awaiting a person from the princes, whom he is expecting hourly, with whom he will immediately proceed to His Majesty. I have it from his own lips that the duke of Longueville is doing everything to find money and has already got together 100,000 crowns; that he is sending 4,000 Swiss, his subjects of the district of Neuchâtel, to join the forces of the princes. He remarked that their passage cannot be prevented, as they pass through the country of the Palatine into the district of Sedan, where Bouillon is supreme. He exaggerated the forces with which he says that Bouillon has taken the field, with those of the other princes. I wrote on the 9th ult. that on the 3rd the prince of Condé had given divers commissions to make some levies of infantry and cavalry. Now one has reached my hands and I enclose a copy, so that your Excellencies may see the form and the reasons which he advances as the grounds of his action, and the reply given on the 25th to the proposals made by those of the religion at Amboise to their Most Christian Majesties. Your Excellencies will have heard everything from the Ambassador Contarini.

The king is drawing near and as, by God's grace, I am gaining strength, I hope to have audience in three or four days and execute the commands of your Excellencies. I understand that Bonnivet has written to the duke of Longueville of what he said to the king and me touching the district of Neuchâtel. I shall see him easily at the court, and if he says anything I will report it.

The ambassador of France told me that the marshal de Boisdauphin will cut off the retreat of the princes, that the Marquis Spinola is at the frontiers with a large body of troops. He showed that he attached importance to this. My advisers inform me that there are 8,000 and they go on increasing, although the ambassador says it is otherwise, and that he has it from the ambassador of Flanders.

From London, 11th September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

1615.  
Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

16. Manifesto of HENRY OF BOURBON, PRINCE OF CONDE.

After patiently awaiting the reform of the present disorders and having finally penetrated the pernicious designs of the Marshal of Ancre, the Chancellor, the Commandeur Sillery, Bullion and Dolé, and seeing that many, by their advice, have raised troops in several parts of this realm under the king's authority, which can only prejudice the service of His Majesty and the public weal, we are almost compelled to repel the injuries inflicted by them on the king by a natural and necessary defence, being without any arms and with our ordinary train, which we judge necessary to our rank in France. We trust in your loyalty, valour and experience in arms. By the advice of several princes, officials of the Crown, we give you commission to raise a company of fifty men at arms, carefully chosen and expert, to be commanded by you, to be brought to an appointed place. We give you power to appoint a lieutenant or ensign to this company.

Dated at Coucy, the 3rd August, 1615.

Henry de Bourbon.

Countersigned: Bonnet.

[*French.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

17. Translation of the above.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 12.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

18. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The ambassador of the States, who was to have left on Monday, took a slight fever, and has delayed until to-day. The Ambassador Wotton has not yet arrived; he is expected hourly, and will go to the king at once. So they say nothing more about the restitution of the places. Every one expects that those occupied will be well garrisoned, and it is clear that the reply of the Provinces to the proposals sent to each of them will be long. Count Henry has put the frontiers in good order, and has returned to the Hague. In the muster of cavalry they found rather less than 4,000 horse, partly cuirassiers and partly carabineers, besides a number of nags to carry forage for the cuirassiers.

The king has directed his agent at Danzig who is now here to set out for Stettin to see what is done in the assembly at that place for the differences between Poland and Sweden. His Majesty has also sent a deputy for the differences between Sweden and Muscovy. He has already been that way and will go before the ambassador of the States.

I hear by way of Holland that a great battle has taken place between the Tartars and the Muscovites. The latter were routed and their duke was in great peril of his life.

A number of slaves from Tunis have arrived in Holland, brought by one Giacomo Belloagio, to whom, besides paying his expenses, the States have given a chain of gold.

The city of Brunswick is so hard pressed by the duke, all outlets being closed, that it will fall by famine if it is not relieved by the



1615.

confederate Hanse towns. The duke is greatly helped by being closely related to the elector of Brandenburg, who is very intimate with the States.

A person who says he has it from the mouth of the interpreter of the ambassador of Spain informs me that the Marquis Spinola had bought from the Count Maulevrier (*Monlevrier*) his claims upon the duchy of Bouillon. I do not state this as a fact, but simply what I hear.

A short while ago the Marquis de Bonnivet arrived in London on his return from the king. He ought to bring some resolution. To-day I shall return his visit and try to find out as much as I can, and report by the present ordinary, if there is time, otherwise it will be by the first of next week.

The king will be at Hampton Court on Monday and he will not leave London and the neighbouring palaces for some time, owing to important affairs.

I told your Excellencies that they talked of assembling the parliament. His Majesty spoke about it in the Council, and those who did not want it proposed to lay an imposition for one turn upon all houses built from a certain time onwards. Afterwards they issued the printed notice which I enclose with a translation. I should have done so long since but for my indisposition.

Some malcontents have risen in Scotland in one of the Hebrides and in a neighbouring part of that kingdom. They have for chief a man called James Major. The king has sent the earl of Argyll with orders to punish the chiefs and reduce them to order. They are for the most part savages, ill-provided with arms, and they cannot hope for help on any side. Two ships and a pinnace have been given to the earl to facilitate his task. They are not numerous and he will easily reduce them to order by using the people of his own state only; such being the orders which he takes with him.

The Parliament of Ireland has separated with the resolve to make a gift to the king, as I wrote that they proposed to do. This is the first time that realm has made a grant, so it is the more grateful to His Majesty.

The queen remains at the baths, a hundred miles from here,\* and she will stay for some weeks longer. The prince has made his progress to all the king's palaces. His health improves continually and he is becoming robust, to the intense satisfaction of their Majesties and of all these realms. Now that I am in health I will pay my respects to His Highness after seeing the king.

From London, the 12 September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

19. Proclamation prohibiting the erection of private buildings in and around London.

Given at Theobalds, the 16 July in the 18th year of the reign.†

[*English; printed document, 2 pp.*]

\* At Bath.

† See Cal. of State Papers, Domestic, 1611-18, p. 295.

1615.  
Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

20. Translation of the above.  
[*Italian.*]

Sept. 12.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

21. SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador at Rome, to the  
DOGE and SENATE.

The French ambassador has been to see me. He told me that he expected that the royal marriages would be celebrated on the day of Our Lady, the Princes were still opposed, and the Palatine of the Rhine wished to enter France with 8,000 foot, as advised by the king of England and requested by the duke of Bouillon, his uncle. The Huguenots of France have hitherto remained quiet and only say that they desire to serve His Majesty. He also told me that possibly owing to the intentions of the Palatine and the king of England, who has hindered their marriages to the utmost, the ambassador of that king had not yet decided to accompany their Majesties to Bayonne. He dwelt somewhat upon this point, saying that the English are the mortal enemies of France, and that kingdom possessed a considerable population. I said I did not understand how there could possibly be war when negotiations are proceeding for the marriage of the second sister of his Most Christian Majesty to the prince of England, and are at an advanced stage. He said that was true, but nevertheless the danger he had spoken of was still there.

I understand that in these disorders of France the governor of Calais has written to Montigny his brother to direct his attentions to a part where he may find the master of a sea-port favourably disposed, that if the English have any intention of transporting troops to France, they may easily do so, by the help of such a person. I have also heard that three places in France have refused the royal garrison, one of these is La Fère, a very important place in Picardy.

They discuss these affairs of France here eagerly. Some say that if the Palatine means to enter France armed the Huguenots will never oppose him, in spite of their telling the king that they will be his good vassals.

Rome, the 12 September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 15.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savona.  
Venetian  
Archives.

22. RANIER ZEN, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE  
and SENATE.

Sends copies of letter of Condé to Lesdiguières, the articles of the assembly, the letters of the assembly, to the queen and king of France and a letter of the King of Great Britain to the duke of Bouillon. They came in French, but have been translated.

Turin, the 15 September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

1615.

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**23. COUSIN,**

We send you this gentleman, of proved fidelity, to receive your commands and to communicate what we have charged him with. We ask you to place complete confidence in him.

Your affectionate cousin,

JAMES.

Dated at Theobalds on 16 August, 1615.

[*Latin.*]

Sept. 15.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**24. GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Resident at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

At the present moment there are six French galleys with the flagship at Procida in addition to four already there. They arrived yesterday evening on their return from Barbary, where they gave chase to two galleots of those pirates. These escaped, but they captured an English berton and a French ship which were going buccaneering. They will continue their voyage to Marseilles at the earliest opportunity.

Naples, the 15 September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 17.

Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**25. GIOVANNI RIZZARDO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS of STATE.**

*As the king is still at a distance from this city,\* I have not yet been able to find out what was said by His Majesty and by others of the court upon the subject of Moscorno's imprisonment except that I was told that when the king heard the news, it is thought by letters of his ambassador, he uttered the significant words that he had expected as much. Here in London, at the first Sir [William] Smith (Smirt) and other friends of Moscorno went about saying that this was a persecution by the ambassador here, that they would induce the king to send information to Venice and write in favour of the secretary, as they felt sure that he would do so willingly, but nothing more has been heard about it. When the court returns I will make enquiries and forward information to your Excellencies. I will not trouble you with more information without good reason for writing, unless I receive special instructions, especially as Sig. Barbarigo is expected soon to relieve us of our charges, although we have no certain news as yet of his departure from Coire, but simply that he is going to leave and will travel straight through.*

London, the 17 September, 1615.

[*Italian ; deciphered.*]

Sept. 17.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Grisoni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**26. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary with the Swiss and Grisons, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

We have no news here from Juliers except that matters remain as they were. All parties are fortifying and waiting to see what

\* At Windsor.

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will happen in France and what will be the outcome in Italy. It is further said that in Flanders the Archdukes are filling up the Irish regiments and others. All signs point to a movement on their part where they can promise themselves most advantage.

Zurich, the 17 September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

27. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have seen the marquis of Bonnivet as I wrote that I intended to do. From his conversation and from what I have heard from other sources it seems clear to me that he has urged the king to declare himself in favour of the princes of France, and to do so in resolute and open terms. The reply he brought away was that the king had caused his ambassador to speak freely to his Most Christian Majesty, and that it was necessary to await the reply before doing anything else; that if they consent, good, if not they will decide what to do, but the present is not the time to take any step; that a courier will be here in a few days, and a resolution will be taken. The king added many affectionate expressions and extended the most favourable reception to the marquis, who has impressed it upon the king that the marriages will be completed, that many governors of towns in France are ready to declare themselves for the princes and are only awaiting a declaration from His Majesty, on which a happy result depends. That quickness is necessary above all things; that the princes are already in the field with good forces relying on the things said on behalf of His Majesty by the persons sent by him. But with all this the only reply he could draw from the king was a reiteration that it was necessary to await the reply with patience. Two couriers have since come post to the king from France, and the Marquis has followed them, to prefer his requests. He has received letters from the duke of Longueville, announcing certain brawls which take place daily between the troops of that duke and those of the Marshal of Ancre. The father in law of the Marquis remains at Etaples and that place is now free from any siege. *I know on good authority that the governor of Ardres will side with Condé.*

The French ambassador has recently been several times in succession to visit the ambassador of Spain. Together with the ambassador of Flanders they have held close and long conferences.

On Sunday some members of the French ambassador's household, whilst he was visiting as I mentioned, joined in a brawl with some of the citizens which ended in a great commotion, persons being injured on every hand, with considerable danger of worse trouble.

The marquis of Bonnivet told me that the duchess of Longueville has sent money to her son. She was left a widow twenty years ago, whilst he was in the nursery, and she saved up a large sum of money, which is now being spent.

There is little fresh about Neuchâtel, and while there is a doubt about the reply of your Excellencies he proceeds with the more reserve. I am informed, however, that he is negotiating with other Powers.

1615.

A week ago I wrote that the Marquis Spinola had bought the claims of the Count of Maulevrier (*Monlevrier*) to the duchy of Bouillon. I now confirm this upon more certain grounds, and add that it took place with the knowledge of the Queen of France and the consent of the Catholic king. The Most Christian ambassador, in the course of conversation, remarked to me that it would seem to Bouillon as if the forces of Spinola stood across his path; that possibly Bouillon alone might be punished, against whom he has shown a stronger feeling than against any of the other princes.

They have no certain news here of the marching or of the arrival of Longueville's Swiss. It is understood that Bouillon is waiting to collect troops and that, as they arrive, if he sends them to Condé he will not go far from Sedan or from the custody of his places, as he knows the projects of Spinola.

Some weeks ago Bonnavet wished to go to Poitou to arm 4,000 men and to receive authority with the leaders of the Huguenots to oppose the passage of their Most Christian Majesties. He pressed the king to write and induce them to move and carry this out, but His Majesty hoped at the moment that they would not leave Paris and came to no decision. I have all this from one who knows.

On Monday I sent to Windsor for an audience, as I said I would. The king sent word that as he expected to be in London to-day he would see me to-morrow morning.

I have received your Excellencies' letters of the 28th ult. with those for His Majesty, a copy of the expositions of the ambassador of the 13th and 27th and the reply made by the Senate on the 28th with the communications for His Majesty. I will execute these commands in the self-same words as is my habit, sending word of the reply afterwards.

London, the 18 September, 1615.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Sept. 18.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**28.** ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The States replied to the Ambassador Wotton that the proposal had already gone to each of the provinces. They pointed out the prejudice which their acceptance would cause, and begged him to beseech His Majesty not to insist any more upon this. They added that they had never hitherto departed from his service or his wishes. They afterwards made him a present of 8,000 florins in a number of silver vessels. So he departed and arrived here the day before yesterday, when he immediately proceeded to the court. The ambassador of the States left on the very day that I wrote my last, as I said he would. During a confidential conversation the ambassador of Brandenburg told me that he saw that everyone will keep what he holds, and that his master, to strengthen himself, will draw as closely as possible to the Hanse towns; that the possession of Juliers is burdensome, and it is proper that it should remain in the hands of the States, in whom his Elector has perfect confidence; that sometimes the Emperor, sometimes the Catholic king and the Archduke Albert insist upon a decision to place the country of Cleves in deposit, and the

1615.

disturbances of France and the effectuation of the marriages are the reason why they are now pressing forward.

On the 1st inst. the ambassadors of the States left Thesen for Muscovy. At Stettin some persons have arrived to prepare quarters for a Palatine of Poland, sent for the conference. A courier had already arrived from Sweden to learn whether deputies were coming from Poland and other parts for this conference.

The town of Brunswick is still besieged by its duke. The duke of Luneburg, who is allied to the same house, though he is hostile, has taken steps to relieve it. The Hanse towns have sent ambassadors to interpose and settle matters peaceably. The States, to preserve their neutrality, have not consented to the going of Count John Ernest of Nassau, who was sent for by the duke. The principal difficulty consists in two points: the first that the duke wants to have a citadel in the town; the second that he had given various fiefs which belonged to private persons to his councillors, and the latter, as interested parties, strain every nerve to prevent their restitution. From the conversation of the ambassador of Brandenburg I discovered that the Elector wishes this and all other disputes to be settled, and to have all forces joined together upon the Cleves question, which they call the common cause of all the United Princes.

The Marquis Spinola continues to augment his forces towards Maastricht and the frontiers of France.

Nine ships of the Dutch who had gone out in quest of pirates have taken three of them, including a large berton, in the Strait, which had a few persons on board to sail them, all the rest being Turks, whom they cut to pieces. They have written urgently to the Pasha of Tunis and Algiers for the restitution of slaves. Two very rich ships have reached here from the West Indies; this has afforded great consolation to the mart here.

London, the 18 September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 19.  
Senato,  
Secreta,  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

29. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have from time to time sent word to your Serenity of the understanding between the Princes of France, the Parliament of Paris and those of the religion in that kingdom, of the conformity in the representations made by them to their Most Christian Majesties, and their resolution to act together. After all this had remained secret and in negotiation it has been made public by the declaration put forth by those of the religion, as your Excellencies will have heard. Yesterday evening the marquis of Bonnivet came here and told me that the king has this news and demonstrated that whatever has been said to His Majesty touching this on behalf of the prince of Condé and the others, is the truth; that it is necessary for France that things should happen in the way required by the king's service and the weal of the country. He declared that God willed the delay of their Most Christian Majesties in passing to effect the marriages by the attack of small-pox of the princess, and he hinted that even failing that hindrance others might have occurred. That the

1615.

Princes propose to go armed to Paris, and will do so; that the contrivers of the late king's death must be punished, the marriages delayed, and good order introduced into the governance of France by those whom it has pleased God to choose, in raising them as princes and fathers in that kingdom. In speaking of the projects of the Marquis Spinola upon Bouillon he said he knew well that it was understood that Spinola would proceed to besiege Sedan with all the forces of Spain the moment Bouillon went a little way off. He added that if this happens those who govern will speedily repent of having called the Spaniards into France.

This morning he told me that he knows the king's inmost plans, that His Majesty is determined to secure peace in France upon condition that those involved in the late king's death are punished, that the marriages with Spain are postponed, and that the Council shall be composed of the principal magnates of the realm, who will govern for the greatest advantage of France and to the exclusion of the convenience of Spain. For the better effectuation of this His Majesty proposes to send a special ambassador to France, and he will do so if events require it. Touching the death of the late king, I sent all particulars to your Excellencies in my letters at various times.

His Majesty arrived at dusk yesterday evening, and the same night he sent to confirm the audience arranged for this morning. I shall be going shortly; meanwhile I take advantage of a courier, who is setting out at this moment on another mission.

London, the 19 September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 23.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Milano.  
Venetian  
Archives.

30. ANTONIO ANTELMi, Venetian Resident at Milan, to the DOGE and SENATE.

After the news came of the departure of their Most Christian Majesties, the Governor sent a person secretly to take observations about the journey and the opinions about the marriage. This person returned yesterday evening. He brings word that the requests of the Assembly of Grenoble consisted principally in asking that the Huguenots might be reinstated in the position they enjoyed under the late king, but as some of them had been corrupted by the queen, they submitted everything to the pleasure of their Majesties. The gentleman sent to them by Condé and the other Princes had promised the assembly assistance in obtaining their requests. The Princes themselves have been advised from England to abstain from making disturbances, and they have considerably cooled from their first ardour.

Milan, the 23 September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 24.

Consiglio de'X  
Parti  
Criminali.  
Venetian  
Archives.

31. Proposed that in order to prove the imputation made by Giulio Muscorno against Antonio Foscarni of having written advices to the Signory which were not true but capricious inventions of his own, our Inquisitors of State be authorised to give Muscorno the means (ever in the presence at least of their secretary) of seeing the

1615.

despatches written by Foscarini during the time that Muscornò served him as Secretary in England, taking such notes and memoranda of them as may be necessary. These extracts shall remain with the officers of the Inquisitors of State that they may be read to this Council, to be used by them as they see fit. The said Inquisitors shall also endeavour to obtain possession of the ambassador's papers.

Immediately upon the arrest of Foscarini the Inquisitors shall have brought before them all the attendants who may have accompanied him from England, detaining them apart from one another until they have been examined concerning the charges contained in the process.

Moreover, to the decree of this Council dated 13 August last, it be added that immediately upon the arrival of Foscarini in this city, our Inquisitors do examine and arrest him before his appearance in our College.

Ayes 15.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

After the vote was taken the Doge swore all who were present to the most complete silence.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 24.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**32. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador designate to England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Since I wrote from Cologne I have continued my journey and have been to the Hague with the letters for the States-General and Count Maurice. They expressed their great esteem for your Excellencies and I made a suitable reply. They do not believe that the Spaniards intend to carry out the treaty of Santen and accordingly they mean to keep the places which they hold, especially Juliers, Emmerich and Rees, just as the Spaniards hold Wesel, though they are suffering rather severely from the plague there at present.

The affairs of France occupy their attention above all others, and they are daily expecting to see more clearly whither events are tending. Yet they are eagerly awaiting the decision to be taken by the king of Great Britain, from whom they hear the marquis of Bonnavet, sent to His Majesty by the Princes, receives great satisfaction and they value very highly the representations made by His Majesty in France up to the present. Yet they believe that His Majesty's strong leanings to peace will prevent him from committing himself entirely to the party of the Princes. Here at all events no decision has been taken in the matter, because, although on the one hand they dislike the marriages and are more alarmed than anyone else at the alliance of the crown of France with the Spaniards; on the other hand they would not willingly offend the queen, who has continued to support them and maintains two French regiments, and they do not desire any breaking away from the league which they contracted with King Henry IV. They have therefore abstained from allowing their ambassador to join with the



1615.

ambassador of England for the prorogation of the marriages as they were incited to do ; but they have contented themselves with very moderate action in everything, and before coming to any decision they wish to see what is decided and done by the king of Great Britain and what course will be followed by the two parties in France and how strongly they will be supported. They are also writing to see what decision the Spaniards will take with regard to the complete execution of the settlement made in Italy with the duke of Savoy, as they understand that the Catholic king has not ratified it, and from their experience of other operations of the Spaniards in the states of Cleves, they believe that the fulfilment of these terms will also be suspended. Some of their chief men told me that they had not taken a more decided line in the case of the duke of Savoy, as they did not feel sure that His Highness would not come to an agreement, leaving their men and their reputation gravely compromised in Italy; but they had carefully observed the proceedings of your Excellencies, as they felt sure that with your prudence and your knowledge of the affairs of Italy you would take the proper course, and they proposed to follow this.

In Germany they are greatly disturbed at the action of the duke of Brunswick against the town, upon which negotiations are proceeding. The town has sent an agent to the Hague to ask for help or to arrange an accommodation, and owing to the resistance offered and the alliance with the Hanse towns it is thought that neither will abandon the town. The king of Denmark says hitherto that he will help an accommodation, but they fear that he will side rather with the duke, owing to his close relationship, and because he still cherishes his ancient plans with regard to Lubeck, to whom he has intimated that if they have not accepted his pretensions by next February, he will declare war afresh. These intentions of the king of Denmark cause grave disquietude to the States, chiefly because of their shipping in the north and in Muscovy, whither they have sent two ambassadors to arrange an accommodation between the Grand Duke and the king of Sweden and to establish some other particulars relating to trade.

News has arrived that of five ships which were expected from the East Indies, laden with spices and other precious merchandise, three were wrecked last March at the island of Mauritius, two being entirely lost, and the cargo of one recovered. The loss will amount to more than two millions of gold to the Company of the Indies at Amsterdam, so that it is a very serious matter.

The Turkish Chiaus who was in Holland has been sent back with renewed requests for the release of the Dutch slaves, as you will see by the enclosed letter.

If the wind permits I hope to embark to-morrow to set sail for England, to serve the king there, two years after my departure for that service.

Flushing, 24th September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

1615.  
Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**33. The STATES GENERAL of the UNITED PROVINCES of the LOW COUNTRIES to MEHEMET PASHA.**

We take the opportunity of the return of Abraham Abenthamo, dragoman of Cornelius Haga, our ambassador at Constantinople, to request the release of our subjects, detained as slaves, in accordance with the terms of the capitulations granted by the Sultan. We beg your Excellency to use your authority and credit in the matter.

Dated at the Hague on 20 September, 1615.

A similar letter was written to Gsalit Pasha, admiral and Captain General of the sea.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 24.  
Senato,  
Secreta,  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**34. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

In audience of the king on the very morning that I wrote my last, I thanked His Majesty in the name of your Excellencies for the offices performed in the Grisons, expressing our obligations to him and your disgust at the opposition offered by the ministers of other princes. His Majesty listened attentively and seemed pleased. He asked me curiously how the matter had taken place and if the league with the Cantons of Berne and Zurich was already completed as I had said before. He asked me to give him the particulars about the opposition of the other princes, saying: All the other princes opposed, only the king of Great Britain was for your Masters, eyeing me closely the while. I replied that that was precisely the case and increased the indebtedness of your Excellencies. As His Majesty went on to speak eagerly about this, I gathered four things from his discourse, his satisfaction at the praise and thanks given him by your Serenity; his displeasure at the ill offices of other princes and of France in particular; his desire *to see the matter taken up again and his determination to offer the most active assistance* with the hope of a happy issue by virtue of these and other offices. He went on to say that *his ambassador had proposed a defensive league with himself and other princes*. I thanked His Majesty for his friendship and favours, adding that I believed that the perfect understanding between His Majesty and the republic would alone suffice without any other thing, and I went on to express the identical ideas which your Excellencies commanded me, using the same words, enlarging somewhat where I thought fit.

The king heard me with some change of expression and some amount of feeling. He seemed inclined to speak, while I was striving to make the reply palatable to him. Then after reflecting awhile, as if he was struggling with his feelings and was moved by the warmth of my expressions, after I had ceased, he stood still and *turning to me said: You know well why I am moved. It seems that Spain will not keep the treaty with Savoy, and you know what I and your masters have promised. There also seems to be something in Flanders and in Germany. I hoped, by the splendour of this union, which would be an accomplished fact if they had thought fit, to have bridled certain intentions, and thus secured universal peace and tranquillity, especially*

1615.

*in Italy, which seems the most threatened (Voltato a me disse voi sapete bene perche io m' son mosso; pare che Spagna non vogli mantenere l'accordato con Savoia, et io et vostri Signori habbiamo promesso quello che sapete; pare anco, che in Fiandra et in Germania vi sia qualche cosa; io desideravo, che con il lustro di quella unione, che si sarebbe fatta, come essi havessero stimato meglio, si havesse posto freno a certi pensieri, et assicurato così la quiete et tranquillità universale, et in particolare dell' Italia, che pare più minaciata).* I closed the conversation as best I could, saying that your Excellencies knew the sincerity of his exertions for the general peace and of Italy in particular; you would always be mindful of it and anxious to show your gratitude. I went on to kiss his hand for the most kind letter which he was pleased to send to me by the Marquis of Bonnivet, adding that I had clearly presented to your Excellencies what the Marquis had said to me with respect to the district of Neufchâtel; that your Excellencies would be duly grateful to His Majesty for this thoughtful care on your behalf.

His Majesty approved, and said that I knew his readiness, and that he had spoken to me at other times about the matter of the Swiss and the importance of the affair. I thanked him again.

In speaking of the Marquis he told me little; upon the affairs of France he said that the princess had taken the small-pox; that those of the religion are moving in a body and have an understanding with the princes, who are drawing near to Paris with 12,000 combatants, that it was impossible to be certain whether there would be war or peace in France. He believed that in the face of these disorders and against the whole kingdom the queen would not persist in carrying out their marriages so hurriedly, but in any case *he could not be sure, that she is extremely Spanish and that was the reason why France, to her great detriment, was being governed in accordance with the wishes of Spain.* He spoke of the death of the late king, showing the liveliest feeling and compassion; he said that those of the religion and the princes very reasonably wish to see the authors of his death punished, and desire to become the accusers. He expressed his displeasure and surprise that difficulties were raised upon this. *He uttered expressions uncomplimentary to the Queen, saying that he was amazed at such callousness in a wife towards her husband.* He showed himself well informed about the authors of the death, and told me clearly that he could also make disclosures; that on one count and another he thought of sending an extraordinary ambassador to France when the time came, and he seemed to attach great importance to this. He ended the discourse by saying that it was impossible as yet to judge whether there would be peace or war; that he would make up his mind in accordance with the trend of events (*et prenderà risoluzione conforme alla piega che prenderanno i negotii*). I bowed and took leave.

I must not omit to inform your Excellencies that a week on Tuesday the king received at Windsor from his ambassador the reply made by your Excellencies to his proposals. He immediately gave him leave to return to receive the necessary instructions and to pass immediately to the States, whither he is destined.

London, the 24 September, 1615.

1615.

I enclose the letter written by those of the religion of France to the Most Christian King, with a translation. I know you will have received it before, but you will not object to have confirmation from more quarters than one.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**35. LETTER of those of the Religion assembled at Grenoble.**

Sire, as we were about to inform you of the second communication which we have received from Mons. le Prince to join with him in making a declaration to your Majesty to remedy the disorders of the State and avoid the evils which will arise from the precipitation of your marriage, we learned that you had started on the journey with the queen. This has caused us grief and amazement, and we hasten the despatch of M. de Brison, by whom you will be informed of the sentiments of this assembly upon this matter. We cannot conceal from your Majesty our grief at this resolution taken against the advice of the Princes of the Blood, the principal officers of the Crown, and the majority of your subjects. Not only as persons of the religion, and therefore particularly interested, but as true Frenchmen and loyal subjects we beg to humbly repeat our supplications to reform the disorders of the state. The remark upon the precipitation of the marriages affects the ancient allies of your crown and fills with grief the greatest and soundest section of your subjects, who desire to enjoy peace and tranquillity in your kingdom. Sire, the same text which enjoins fidelity and obedience upon subjects requires kings to show a paternal affection towards them ; as we feel the former engraved on our hearts, we hope your Majesty will cherish the latter feelings for us, and that you will imitate that great king, your father.

At Grenoble, the 24 August, 1615.

[*French.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**36. Translation of the above.**

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 24  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra  
Venetian  
Archives.

**37. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The ambassador Wotton arrived here and went immediately to the Court, as I reported. He presented to the king very copious letters from the States in which they relate past events to His Majesty at great length, the present condition of affairs, the designs of the Spaniards and the certitude that neither Wesel nor any of the other places will be restored ; they speak in praise of the ambassador who has given a report to His Majesty in much the same terms ; he mentioned the artifices adopted by the Spaniards in negotiating ; that after the treaty of Santen orders had come from Spain to the archduke not to make restitution ; His Highness sought for pretexts to drag out the affair ; that in case of evacuation the promises were to be made not to the kings but by the States to the archduke and by the archduke to the States,

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and they found a score of other devices. He did his utmost to disabuse the king of the idea that the Spaniards would make restitution. I will secure a copy of the letter if possible, and will send it on by the next ordinary if I succeed, together with a translation. His Majesty asked the ambassador various questions, and finally confirmed him as ambassador to your Excellencies, to which charge he was already destined as I reported. He was directed to leave within two months. He has been to see me and seemed disgusted at the Spanish style of negotiating, telling me some of the things which I have written. He ended by saying that these differences must of necessity result eventually in war; that the States on their part would be ready to make restitution, but Spain would never do so; that the king will finally be compelled to break; that in Holland they fear that the continual and forcible representations of Spain to France will lead to the withdrawal of the French regiments which are maintained there by the money of that crown. He afterwards went on to tell me that the king had confirmed the favour of sending him again to serve your Serenity; he welcomed this greatly, and expressed a most lively eagerness for the task, asking me to represent all this to your Excellencies in the best possible manner. I returned his visit without gathering anything further from his conversation beyond what I have written, and that the king may well give him some commission for the duke of Saxony on his way out, and possibly one for France. He will leave within two months.

The steward of the Ambassador Barbarigo has arrived here to provide a house and other necessities to furnish it. The arrival of the goods is expected, and meanwhile the ambassador is waiting to receive word at the Hague, where he is extraordinarily favoured by Maurice and the States, as his merits deserve.

Sig. Tomaso Moresini has come here with the sole desire to render himself more fit to serve his country, as I reported. He will return with me to my great satisfaction owing to his character and diligence. He has already picked up many things which will be useful to him and aid him in navigation and the profession which he intends to adopt.

London, the 24 September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 24.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**38. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

On Monday the Ambassador of Savoy had audience of the king at (*Vrino*), a place six miles from here. *His Majesty informed him of the proposal for a league made by his ambassador to your Excellencies, and the reply given, in which he displayed some feeling; he ended by saying that he had not failed and enlarged upon the details. The ambassador told him that the proposal might have been made in better terms, that a league would have been very acceptable to his duke, but as he had the word of your Serenity to protect him should the Spaniards break their word, that was almost an equivalent. His Highness wished for nothing but peace and the effectuation of the*

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*things arranged. The king made no reply to this.* The ambassador went on to inform His Majesty that the places are not given up nor are the other points agreed upon being carried out; that in Spain on the 8th and 11th ult. the Council deliberated upon not ratifying the agreement, except in the first three points. He begged His Majesty to first make energetic representations to Spain and France, without losing time, so that if they are not successful he may give the necessary instructions in order that the duke may not be abandoned. He spoke of making a magazine of arms and munitions of war at Villafranca; he said he had spoken about it with the ambassador of the States, who at his departure had promised to speak to his masters. He expressed a desire for peace with a determination, should it prove necessary, to defend himself with arms. This closed the discourse.

The king replied that some days before he had sent double orders to his ambassador in Spain to make representations to the king there in order that the terms arranged might be carried out in their entirety, directing him straitly that if they replied saying that Mantua was the cause, laying the blame on the duke, he should give them to understand that the duke certainly would not dare so much by himself, and there must be connivance and encouragement on that side; that he would again make strong representations to France, and would do everything for the quiet of the duke and of Italy. If this proved of no avail he would turn to other remedies; meanwhile he assured His Highness of complete protection for his just intentions. He praised the taking from Holland of a quantity of arms and munitions of war; he said that it was reasonable that the States should oblige the duke by sending them and be willing to receive the money at his convenience. He promised to assist in this work. The ambassador kissed His Majesty's hands and asked him what he thought of the affairs of France and what he intended to do, because the duke was to such an extent the servant of His Majesty that he would be ruled by his wishes. The king said: The princess has an attack of the smallpox, those of the religion have decided to move in a body together with the princes to prevent the marriages, secure the regulation of the Government and the punishment of those guilty of the late king's death, that la Fère was occupied and held for the prince of Condé, but yet he could not feel sure either of war or of peace in France. He was expecting news daily, according to which he would take a decision and would send for the ambassador to inform him about it. With that the ambassador took leave.

He afterwards spent a long time with the king's secretary upon the same matters and with the same result. The day before yesterday he received letters from Turin with urgent orders to prefer the same request to the king which I write of. The count of Verna writes to him at length of various things done by Mantua contrary to the treaty; that the marquis of Caluzo and the others are not set at liberty. With regard to Oneglia he said they were not willing to make restitution; the duke was very angry about it, and prepared to go there and take it by force. He sent immediately to the king's secretary to ask for an appointment and to tell him he

1615.

must see His Majesty again. He was told that he would be expected at the same hour, as the secretary was leaving early on the following morning. He went, set forth everything clearly, and showed various points of his letters. He was told that instructions had already been sent to Spain, whence they had heard on the preceding day that the ambassador had repeated his representations for the complete ratification of the treaty; that he had not been able to make an impression; that he would keep on and did not despair of a favourable issue. With regard to an audience of the king, he was told that for two days the king had given leave to almost the whole court; he might send to-morrow and have one easily whenever he wished. That he would be back here to-morrow morning and would immediately go to the ambassadors of France and Spain to speak to them in the names of His Majesty as was fitting, that if these representations did not succeed in bringing about the ratification of the treaty, a means would be found to do so by force.

Yesterday he saw the French ambassador, whom he begged to write and make representations. He said he had already done so and would do so again. He declared that the duke is right; that the failure of Mantua or of Spain would constitute a public breach of faith, with similar opinions.

I have all this from the ambassador of Savoy himself, with confirmation from one other source which is well informed. The ambassador has made similar representations to me on behalf of the duke. As I know how justly your Excellencies have the peace of Italy at heart, I will not fail to direct my efforts to that end, both with the ambassador of France and the Spanish ambassador. May God grant that every flame of war may be kept far away from our province.

London, the 24 September, 1615.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Sept. 24.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

39. GIOVANNI RIZZARDO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

*I have recently received the letters written to me by your Excellencies on the 8 July, which were sent back to Antwerp, owing to a mistake of the merchant who was to deliver them, and have since come on here; this has made them so late in reaching my hands. I see that I have at least fallen in with the orders and desires of your Excellencies by sending frequent and detailed information. With regard to the departure hence of Sig. Moscorino, since the king's arrival in London, I have succeeded in learning something about that individual through the questions and conversation about his imprisonment, but nothing beyond what I have written except confused remarks and matters coloured by the prejudices of the speaker, and I do not think it worth while to trouble your Excellencies by relating them. There remains the task of obtaining and sending the book. In this connection, in speaking of Moscorino, some say that he may be detained until the book is discovered. Sig. Giovanni Maria Lugaro, the queen's valet, a Genoese, says that he has seen the book, that the queen herself had it, and perhaps he will find it again. In speaking of the authorship he*

1615.

added that they said that Lotti, the late resident of Florence, had a hand in it. If I can obtain it, I will forward it at once, if not, I will leave orders for it to be sent on to me after my departure. This may possibly be the easier course.

We shall not leave here before the end of October, or possibly November, by what the Ambassador says, although Sig. Barbarigo has arrived at the Hague, about 200 miles away. But coming from there by sea he could not be settled at the embassy under ten or perhaps fifteen days, and afterwards it will be necessary to wait upon the king, who will go and stay away some days upon the chase before returning to stay in London, while the queen is under treatment and will not be free for the whole of next month or a little earlier.

With regard to the league with Savoy I have nothing further to add, the negotiations having been cut short by the refusal of the republic to the king here. This has removed all grounds for discussion. I am persuaded that the ambassador was inclined to this rather because he was honestly of opinion that it would be advantageous to the republic than in order to please Savoy or their ambassador, who was anxious for it, as I wrote.

London, the 24 September, 1615.

[Italian; deciphered.]

Sept. 24.

Senato,  
Secreta.

Dispositi.  
Grisoni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

40. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary with the Swiss and Grisons, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Letters from Nürenburg of the 15th state that the Princes in France propose to capture certain places to secure themselves; meanwhile they have sent a special person to the king of England. On the other hand the archduke Albert has sent one to the duke of Bouillon to urge the princes not to go any further.

Zurich, the 24 September, 1615.

[Italian.]

Sept. 26.

Collegio,  
Secreta.

Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

41. The AMBASSADOR OF ENGLAND came into the CABINET and said:—

I am pleased to come to enjoy this honour, because my duties here will soon cease, as the occasion which detained me has passed. The duke of Mantua, who seemed unwilling to agree and dissatisfied with the provisions of the treaty has been prevailed upon by your Serenity to desist from taking action, and this completes the affair. It is true that the duke of Savoy is threatened by the governor of Milan while that army remains on foot, and he has asked me to move my king and beg your Serenity to see that the capitulations are carried out. The duke wrote this some days ago, but this morning I have letters from Milan assuring me that Spain has decided to disarm, and so every ground of suspicion will cease.

The ambassador then said: I think it right to report what a German, who serves the governor, has written to me from Milan, and taking up a leaf he read, the Florentines, Lucchese, Urbinate and other foreigners will be dismissed. Two-thirds of the Lombards will follow their example and the Neapolitans will be reduced to



1615.

a third. The troops of Spain, Naples, and Sicily will also be reduced and the remainder will go into garrison and to their other customary posts. Of the cavalry only six ordinary companies will remain.

The Councillor Mocenigo thanked the ambassador for this as did the Procurator Priuli, who declared that they had not received these particulars from elsewhere.

The ambassador expressed his gratification at the manner in which his office had been received, adding that the Spaniards seemed to have no reason to raise new commotions and difficulties. He then made reverence and departed.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 26.  
Cl. VII.  
Cod. MLIX.  
Bibl. di  
S. Marco,  
Venice.

**42. PIERO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the INQUISTORS OF STATE.**

Will do utmost to procure the book entitled 'Detti et Fatti di Antonio Foscarini, Amb' di Venetia.' It is said in Court that the book was printed several months ago, and that Biondi had written it, but I have not heard this from any one who has seen it. The Signori Troni, when they came from England, said that they spoke openly about it in the court there. Sig. Geremia Ghisi, who has also come from there, said that he had made every effort to obtain it, without success. The papal nuncio, who has frequently mentioned it to me, says that he has received letters from London stating that they began to print it at London, but were stopped, and the original was suppressed. It has certainly not appeared in France, as he had not been able to secure a copy in spite of all his efforts.

From Tours, Sept. 26, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**43. Examination of persons who may be questioned.**

Sig. Luca Tron blamed Foscarini for irreverence at mass, having made a fart at the elevation of the Host. He had often taken pen in hand to write to Venice of the grave excesses of Foscarini, but had been dissuaded by his son.

The papal nuncio informed Contarini in Paris that the pope is well informed of the character of your ambassador in London. The nuncio, the ambassador of England, many of the princes and Joinville (*Gianvelle*) had called him *fou*, and spent a day in relating the pranks committed by Foscarini. The nuncio often accused him of indecency.

The English ambassador said that when he had first arrived he had been treated with great confidence, but subsequently, after they had seen his freakishness (*il suo cervello*) they had been much more reserved with him.

The Nuncio said that if Henry IV. had lived he had resolved to ruin Foscarini, being very badly impressed by him.

Contarini told Muscorno that he had heard from Foscarini that the Duke of Mayenne had left France to go and serve the duke of Savoy, and that the king of England had sent money to Mayenne

1615.

for this purpose, which was most false. Is it true that at the ball of the king of England he was ? Luca and Angelo Tron were not present.

One day at table when the mystery of the Trinity was being discussed, Foscarini derisively took up three rolls of bread and said: I do not think that any one could persuade me that these three loaves are only one. Sig. Tron said other things about Foscarini's lack of religion, of the scandal he gave to the Catholics, of the little decorum with which he supported his charge and that he frequently said he was tired of divining for his country. They thought he invented most of the things which he wrote, as all persons of quality avoided his house and he had difficulty in getting admitted to visit them.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 26.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**44. PIETRO VICO, Venetian Secretary in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The galleys of Prince Filiberto issued from the port of Barcelona to give chase to certain pirates. As they did not find them, they returned at night.

Two days ago, in the night, an alcalde proceeded to the house of the English ambassador with a large armed following, and within the gates made prisoner one who had withdrawn there. He, calling for assistance, was heard and the whole household sallied forth, delivered the man and wounded the alcalde himself and six or eight of his company. On the following morning the President of Castile held a council upon this event. They decided to go that night with a larger force and enter all the rooms contiguous to the ambassador's house and remove all who had taken refuge and others who offered resistance to justice. When His Excellency heard this he gave orders for the supply of many arquebuses and other arms to prevent all attempts made against his liberty and jurisdiction. Accordingly when the alcaldes arrived and saw what provision had been made they thought it better to return without doing anything rather than cause a scandal which might have grave consequences. The ambassador has sent to Lerma to inform the king of all this and complain that the house is besieged by those ministers. It is expected that the President will receive orders to treat the ambassadors with becoming respect.

Madrid, the 26 September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 29.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**45. RANIER ZEN, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Yesterday the duke gave a grand banquet in my honour. I had a conversation with him afterwards on the same day. He said that the Huguenots will certainly take action. The king of England had sent a gentleman to treat with them. This was one Biondi, a subject of your Serenity who had turned Protestant,

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and who is now at Chambéry and he is expected to come on here to see the duke.

Turin, the 29 September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 2.  
Senato,  
Mar.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**46.** With regard to the letters of the Proveditore General Zane of Candia and Captain Morosini of Candia of the 2nd and 16 June last, and a memorandum of the Cinque Savii alla Mercantia upon the grave prejudice caused because Venetian vessels are not bound to pay the new impost of 6 ducats the tun of wine laded on those vessels to be taken to the West, in accordance with the exception provided by this council on 26 January, 1580, because the ease with which our subjects can make foreign vessels Venetian will ultimately cause the loss of that custom<sup>o</sup>; it is resolved that while maintaining the recent resolution upon raisins laded at Zante and Cephalonia, all those who in the future lade wine at Candia for the West, shall be bound to pay 6 ducats a tun without exception.

Ayes 146.

Noes 0.

Neutral 4.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 3.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**47.** ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

On Saturday the king's secretary saw the ambassadors of the Most Christian and Catholic kings, as I wrote that he would. He told the Spanish ambassador that His Majesty had interposed for the peace of Italy; that the Catholic king had given the instructions for the treaty and to the Governor of Milan to effectuate it. That now they heard that the council departs from the treaty upon three points. He ended by stating that as the king here had pledged his word to the duke, if there was a breach, to help and send him succours, he could not fail. He begged him in the name of His Majesty to make representations to Spain and use every effort for the carrying out of the treaty. The ambassador replied that he had not received letters from his king for a long while, so that he could not make any positive statement upon the matter; he only said that the sincerity with which his king is negotiating leaves no room for doubt that his promises will be thoroughly observed. After some replies in the same terms, energetic words on the part of the secretary and rather courteous and specious than conclusive remarks from the ambassador, the secretary departed.

He spoke to the French ambassador of the interests of the Most Christian King in the carrying out of the agreement, as he was bound to the duke by promises and writing; that as Spain had given her promise to France and another more particularly, he ought to urge the more strongly for the execution; that the king here will not go back on his promise and will help the duke. The ambassador admitted the truth of all this, that they will not fail,

\* See the preceding volume of this Calendar at pages 455, 554.

1615.

that the Spaniards are bound, that if Spain or Mantua raise any obstacle a remedy will be found. The secretary afterwards gave an account of all this to the ambassador of Savoy, promising that he would insist with such vigour as the importance of the affair demanded.

On Sunday I chanced to meet the ambassadors of Spain and Flanders, who dismounted from their horses and entered the carriage of your Excellencies. In speaking of the affairs of Italy the Spanish ambassador asked me what news I had. He then added that he understood that the duke of Mantua had departed from the treaty, and he had not received letters from Spain for a long while. He asked me to speak. I answered that your Excellencies will always secure peace. The ambassador of Flanders remarked that it was necessary to help the one who had right on his side, and to make it prevail. To this I replied that there were two questions for consideration in the affair; one affected the weal of Italy, and that was peace; the other only concerned the interests of the two dukes, and the decision of this belonged to others. The Spanish ambassador then asked me what news there was from France: after expressing various opinions in honour of the queen and against the princes he told me that he never would have believed it possible that circumstances would lead Spain to desire unreservedly the success of the king of France and be apprehensive of that of his adversaries; that he would not at that time stop to discuss whether this was good or bad fortune for his king, but it was remarkable. They referred to what I have reported, the matter of Bouillon and Spinola, and concluded that the marriages could meet with no impediment, and in a short time the Most Christian King would return to Paris. They went on to speak of other things.

The ambassador of Flanders stays on here. He has only four persons with him, and as he has already sent away most of his moveables he says that he is only awaiting the orders of His Highness to depart immediately.

I have already reported that the duke of Longueville had established himself at Corbie and that many were flocking to him from Amiens. Afterwards he had intelligence in the citadel of Amiens, and it was arranged that the prince of Condé should take that way and a means would be found of admitting him. Accordingly the Prince set out, and on the way he tried to get possession of Roye (*Roe*), but the Governor was on the alert, and Condé, seeing the difficulty, pushed on. Almost at the same time the treason in the citadel of Amiens was discovered and so that plan came to nought. After the Prince had returned to Clermont, 800 soldiers to fill up the regiments of Picardy and Navarre passed by at a short distance. He set a part of his forces in battle array and easily broke that infantry, which went on to Senlis (*San Luz*) in disarray and almost completely disarmed. Condé has sworn to his soldiers that he is fighting for good order in the government of France and the punishment of the five persons previously mentioned, and that he will not lay down his arms before the death of the late king is avenged. The oath has been printed. The Prince is between Clermont and Crépi and the

1615.

Marshal of Boisdauhin (*Bodufin*) is at Senlis (*San Luz*), three or four leagues separating them. They are increasing their forces, and as the Prince cannot approach Paris because the Marshal stands across the road it is thought that they must necessarily fight.

London, the 3 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 3.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

47. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The illustrious Barbarigo has arrived in England. He has already secured a house and as his things have arrived he will soon have settled down, and he will enter London one day next week. I thought good to acquaint the king of his arrival, speaking in his praise as his merits deserve and hoping thereby to advance the service of your Excellencies. Thus I had audience yesterday and told His Majesty of his arrival. I said that I was nearing the end of my long service with him and assured him that a man of high character and worth was taking my place, who would endeavour to please him as much as he could. I spoke at considerable length. The king listened graciously and said: He is a gentleman who bears a good name. He will be experienced in affairs, and will negotiate well, which is the most important thing. He repeated the same opinion two or three times, that he would negotiate well, that he would be a man of affairs and that was the most important thing of all. I assured His Majesty that his intelligence and ability in negotiation were on a par with his other qualities. His Majesty turned to speak of the agreement between your Serenity and the Swiss, and of his displeasure at the hindrances experienced in the Grisons so that the negotiations were broken off, with the same ideas that he expressed to me in a preceding audience. He was very bitter against the queen of France, attributing to her, and to the few who advise her, all the blame in this and in other matters. In speaking of the princes of France he said that he had no detailed news; his ambassador had sent three times to them. He confirmed the defeat of the troops by Condé, which I wrote of. He thinks that by now Condé and Boisdauhin will have fought a battle, as they were only three leagues apart and the last advices showed that they both desired it, and Condé seemed superior in force. He said all this in such a way as to show me that he was keeping something back. In speaking of those of the religion he said that they had declared themselves united with the princes and that they are arming, but—and there he stopped. He went on to say that he had sent some one in his name to their assembly at Grenoble, who has arrived there and from whom he received letters three or four days ago. He named him, and he is the one who left with the instructions which I reported at the time to your Excellencies.\* With this the audience terminated, the king

\* Biondi.

1615.

having been so good as to say some words about me which I must not repeat, as I do not feel that I deserve them.

From the king's speaking, the hints he let fall and his action and from what I hear from other sources in confirmation, I see clearly that they have a close understanding with those of the religion of France. I will endeavour to discover the particulars, which I have not found as yet.

His Majesty has commanded the Lords of the Council to meet together in a body to their full numbers. This is inconvenient for some who are a long way off. I hear on good authority that it is in order to speak about a parliament, which seems to be decided upon. They will meet to make a decision upon the affairs of Flanders and those of France.

London, the 8 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

48. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

This last day a book has appeared in the booksellers here of the worst nature against the dignity of the republic, entitled "An Examination of Venetian liberty," in which they even advance the claims of the Roman Empire upon the city and signory of Venice. It contains some scurrilous reflections against the original liberty of your Excellencies, and says that the most serene republic had a servile origin; that from time to time it owed obedience to the emperors; that after the destruction by the Goths it returned to subjection for some years; that it was subject to the emperors of the East and the West; that the liberty which it enjoys is by privilege, and it is in the power of the emperors to reduce it to servitude. The book has come from Frankfort. By the form of the opinions, the method and other conjectures of those competent to judge, it is supposed to be the work of persons driven from the state of your Serenity. It is ostensibly printed at Mirandola in 1612, but it probably lies both as to time and place. I had some idea of prohibiting it, as it seems prejudicial to your service that such a thing should be publicly sold; but afterwards, being better advised, I have covertly bought all the copies I have found, and have thus provided a remedy. I enclose one, from which your Excellencies will see what I am writing about as well as many things even worse and malignant and seditious expressions.

London, the 8 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 9.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

49. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

On Friday last week I embarked at Flushing on the last stage of my long and toilsome journey to this service, and after remaining four days at sea, owing to the wind, which grew continually stronger after we left port, I arrived at this island. During the first days of next week I shall enter London to take up my duties.

1615.

So far I have had no opportunity to obtain any information of affairs here, as I have not yet been to Court. I will content myself by expressing my devotion to the service of your Excellencies, without adding anything to what Sig. Foscarini has written, as he leaves nothing to be desired, owing to his long experience here and his great ability. I will go to the Court as soon as I can.

Gravesend, the 3 October, 1615.

[Italian.]

Oct. 8.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

50. GIOVANNI RIZZARDO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

*In addition to the letters which I wrote to your Excellencies on the 9th July, of which you have acknowledged the receipt, I also wrote on the 16th, 23rd and 31st of that month and on the 20th and 29th of August, the 4th, 17th and 24th of September. I have also sent a duplicate of each despatch. I have given these particulars because I heard on the 11th ult. from the person who receives and forwards these letters that they are either delayed more than they should be, or are prevented from reaching their destination. I wish your Excellencies to know that this is not due to my negligence. As I suspect that they may have been intercepted I have sent duplicates of my last and the present letter in the public packet, directed to the name agreed upon, and I hope they will arrive safely. We propose to leave here next month and not before. I have nothing further to add.*

London, the 3rd October, 1615.

[Italian ; deciphered.]

Oct. 6.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

51. RANIER ZEN, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the Doge and SENATE.

Marini came to call on me and said that the duke claimed to have completely disarmed and wished him to bear witness to the fact. He excused himself, saying that his information pointed the other way, and he had not to negotiate about this but simply to see that it was done and then go to the governor and see that he did the same. He had come to see me because His Highness again wished to summons him and make the same request in the presence of the resident of England, so that he asked for my protection. I answered him in general terms in accordance with my instructions, and I did the same with His Highness when he sent for me the following day. The Resident of England, all the princes and the Cardinal were present, an unusual circumstance never previously seen by me at this court. The duke told us that he had completely disarmed and had asked Marini to bear witness to this so that he might render back his places or make the Governor of Milan do so, as otherwise the governor refuses to disarm. He offered to let him go all over his state to see for himself, but Marini refused, simply in order to waste time, wait a fortnight and then say that there were troops. He sends a letter from Perron, saying that he had

1615.

spoken to the governor, who said that if Marini had sent him in writing what the duke said, this would have sufficed for him. The governor told Perron this so that he might repeat it to Marini. While he was speaking Marini arrived, having also been sent for by His Highness. The duke asked him in our presence not to trust in his word, as Marini had told me, but to the governor, writing to say that the disarmament was completed according to the treaty and that he should not trust the duke's word but go and see for himself. Marini excused himself, standing confused and almost trembling. He said he had the strictest instructions not to put anything in writing. His Highness objected that the governor would not disarm unless he had this assurance in writing. Marini said he would give the testimony, when he had decided to do so, by word of mouth and not by letter. He agreed to go through the state, and produced the governor's letter saying that when this testimony was received he would fulfil his duty. In such case he had to move cautiously and see with his own eyes, as the governor suggests that he should. After some further discussion, in which Marini excused himself from writing anything, he took leave. When he had gone the duke said he saw quite well that the French do not wish the governor to disarm, and possibly they had agreed together, but he thought he would decide to ask nothing more of them, but let them do what they pleased, as he could soon get enough forces together to resist, and in France they might feel the effect of assistance rendered to the princes by himself and others.

Turin, the 6 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 6.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoya.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**52. RANIER ZEN, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the Doge and SENATE.**

A messenger arrived here yesterday in haste from the Court of France. He told me among other things that in Paris they say that the Protestants of Germany will certainly help the princes, but nothing certain is known about the king of England; I heard in this connection all about the 50,000 crowns paid by that king, which Fresia, the duke's agent, received from the English ambassador at that court. He obtained it by cunning, as orders had already reached the ambassador to withdraw and supersede the instructions to pay it, as the first condition was that payment should not be made except in case of open war in Piedmont, without hope of accommodation, and that Mayenne should be ready to set out. Accordingly Fresia had letters concocted and sent from Piedmont, with orders to urge on Mayenne as there was a complete rupture. He at once went to see Mayenne and got him to write letters to the ambassador saying that he needed money, and that all the men were ready. The ambassador paid him, but made him antedate the receipt, so that he might write to tell the king that on the arrival of the last instructions the money had already been paid. Mayenne had a part of this money, others had some more and a part remained in the hands of Fresia.

Turin, the 6 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]



1615.  
Oct. 9.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

53. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

On Sunday the ambassador of Brandenburg had audience of His Majesty. He related that the Elector has been summoned by the Emperor to take part in the adjudication upon Cleves, which will begin by sequestration. The king grew angry, seemed amazed and made use of the expressions customary with him when he is excited. The ambassador pointed out that there was an understanding between the Emperor, the Catholic king and the archduke; that these proceedings take their origin from deliberations made in Spain; that there is no other remedy but to maintain the treaty of Xanten, to which the document put forward by the archduke is prejudicial; that His Majesty must see to the good issue of this affair, must take a decision and carry it into effect.

His Majesty approved the representations of the ambassador in every particular except in that which referred to the document, saying that he was bound by a promise to the archduke; that the ambassador of the States promised him that his masters would consent and they will do so. The ambassador remarked that he observed no disposition in that direction, and even if they consent the archduke and Spain will readily find twenty other pretexts. The king replied that the promise given by His Majesty must be carried out, and if this is not done he will declare himself and see that it is carried out. He will bind himself to this as strictly as the Elector and the States can desire; they can draw it up as they please and he will sign it without a word. I have all this from the lips of the ambassador himself, who also showed me the letter of his prince. In this he praises the opinion of the States with regard to the document, says that the treaty of Xanten ought to be carried out purely and simply, and it was not reasonable that the sole and particular obligations of the king here should stand in the way, so prejudicial as they are to the general interests not only of His Majesty, the States and princes, but also of France. He seemed to me to be very ill satisfied with the reply given to him here and the decision, and he must soon return to his prince after a fruitless mission. It appears that the statements and representations made to His Majesty by Sir [Henry] Wotton have not had so much influence with His Majesty as he hoped; thus I understand that His Majesty wrote to the archduke expressing the hope that the States will soon consent to the document. The ambassador of the States, on reaching Holland, made earnest representations in favour of the ratification of that document, but they have not yet come to any decision. He spoke about establishing the magazine of arms at Villafranca, which the ambassador of Savoy suggested, but they have not made up their minds about this either.

At the recent meeting of the Council the king proposed to summon parliament, and asked their opinion upon the affairs of France and Flanders. *The calling of parliament encounters the usual opposition of those who having received excessive sums from the king think they will be compelled to render account for it, and also of those who are dependent on the Spaniards and receive pensions from them, who are very numerous (la reductione incontra le solite*

1615.

*opposizione da quelli che havendo ricevuto somme eccessive dal Re temono esser costretti a renderne conto, et da quelli che dependono, et hanno pensione da Spagnoli, che sono in gran numero). The scarcity of money is great, and in order to obtain sufficient for what is wanted a parliament is the only means, and without it does not seem possible for His Majesty to do anything of moment.*

London, the 9 October, 1615.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Oct. 9.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**54.** ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The queen, in accordance with the advice of the physicians and the wishes of the king, has gone to the baths at Greenwich, where I had audience on Sunday. I congratulated her on her return, to which she replied with wishing me all prosperity. She went on to tell me that she was to be dieted for a period of four or five weeks, spoke about the nature of her sickness, and of the remedies. She had not been to the baths because some of the physicians thought that she ought only to be half covered, while the others said it should be up to her neck, so that in consequence of this difference of opinion she had abstained altogether. When I had an opportunity I said that my Illustrious successor was already in England and would arrive in London in five or six days; and that her Majesty would receive honourable service from him. She asked me various particulars about him. I replied extolling him as her merits deserve. She asked me if I was leaving, and used the most gracious expressions. She went on to speak about the prince, whom she would sooner see married in France than in Spain; she told me why, and concluded by saying that she had left the decision to the king; that at present all negotiations, whether with the one or the other crown, are relaxed. We conversed thus upon various matters for an hour, when I took leave.

On Wednesday night, a little before day, Madam Arabella (*Herbella*) died suddenly in the Tower, without leaving a will. Thus the poor lady has at the same time ended her life and her troubles. Yesterday her corpse was accompanied to the grave by more than sixty coaches. Shortly before her death the Countess of Shrewsbury was allowed to see her. She found her speechless, almost entirely unconscious and moribund.

Three days ago they made a muster of cavalry and to-day one of 6,000 infantry, all from London and excellently appointed. The prince was present with a goodly number of cavaliers. This displeased the king, who wishes him away from danger and generally keeps him near him.

The Earl of Argyll remains in Scotland to extirpate the rebels, who aided by the ground are offering some resistance in considerable numbers, but they will certainly have to yield.

His Majesty, having laid his proposals before the Council, will pass to Theobalds to-morrow, and on Monday he will go on to Royston, two days from here, where he will stay some weeks.

London, the 9 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

1615.

Oct. 9.  
Senato,  
Secreta,  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**55. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

To-morrow, please God, the Illustrious Barbarigo will arrive in London. To-day the Master of the Ceremonies has dined with me. He has since gone in the king's barge to Gravesend to fetch him in the king's name. I will not fail to perform what the public service and his merits demand.

News comes from France of the passing of the duke of Longueville towards Crépi, where he joined his forces of 8,000 foot and 500 horse to those of the Prince. Bouillon, for the reasons which I reported, will not go far away from Sedan. He has sent all whom he could spare, and Mayenne, St. Paul and Tingry have done the same, going in person. Thus with a body of 12,000 foot and 2,500 horse he has proceeded towards Pontoise, where he offered battle to the Marshal of Boisdapuin, but as the latter had no orders to fight he crossed the river. The king has not received word that their Most Christian Majesties have left Poitiers, and the French ambassador, who called on me to-day, said that he had no letters later than the 18th. From what he said it was easy to see that he fears the spread of fighting in that kingdom.

At Dunkirk they are daily expecting the arrival of some Spaniards who embarked at Lisbon; it is said that they will pass immediately to the frontiers.

The Marquis of Bonnavet saw the king again three days ago, but received no other reply except that a decision will be made immediately after the arrival of the person sent to Grenoble. Thus time is gained.

The siege of the town of Brunswick goes on and various actions have taken place. The Hanse towns have sent their deputies to Lubeck, while the United Provinces have sent four there. This must be in connection with Denmark and Brunswick, in order to find a means of settling the latter question.

Three large ships are being put in readiness here to sail to the East Indies.

Persons sent by the king of Denmark and the duke of Lorraine have recently arrived here, and, by now, both will have seen the king.

London, the 9 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 9.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**56. GIOVANNI RIZZARDO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*In spite of all my efforts I have not been able to find the book. Sir [William] Smith, who proposed to let me see it, absolutely refused when the news arrived of the imprisonment of Muscorno, whose close friend he was. I have written to your Excellencies as much as I have been able to discover. Dr. Freier,\* a physician, told me that about five or six months before the departure of Muscorno, he was*

\* Dr. John Freer. See the preceding volume of this Calendar at page 198.

1615.

*incited by him as a friend to [an evening's] amusement. They went to the Dolphin hostelry to read this book. Muscorno had it, and he read it almost all through, taking four or five hours. He left out some chapters, saying that he could not read them because they dealt with important matters and affairs of State. When I asked him who the author of the book might be and where a copy of it would be found he said he did not know, as no one would own to being the author. He was not sure whether Muscorno had kept the book, though he probably had. I feel sure that your Excellencies will find it among the papers in his house. However, I will leave orders for it to be sent to me if it is found after our departure from here, and possibly this will prove the easier way. I need not trouble your Excellencies any more over this, but if anything new reaches me worthy of your notice, I will send it on. We shall stay on here for more than a month and possibly for the whole of next month from what the ambassador says. I have worked my hardest to execute the orders given to me. I have observed, what I have frequently said, that the news sent by His Excellency is mostly obtained from the ambassadors of other princes, and when I have suspected him of speaking on his own authority, especially in important matters, I have indicated so much to your Excellencies, in fulfilment of the charge laid upon me and so that I may never be accused of negligence. I wish that I had more ability to discharge this task, and I ask that my imperfections may be excused. Such as I am, I shall be always ready to serve, and on this occasion I have left my house, mother, wife and children to expose my life to greater perils in the service of my prince and masters, to whom I have dedicated my life and fortune. I only desire honour, and to leave a worthy example to my children in the hope that my long and devoted service may be at length recognised, even if it come late.*

*London, the 9th October, 1615.*

*[Italian; deciphered.]*

Oct. 10.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Grisoni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**57.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary with the Swiss and Grisons, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I find that the Lords of Berne will readily consent to the alliance which the duke of Savoy seems to desire with them, if they can obtain certain assurances. They especially desire that some means be found of rendering mutual assistance. The Bernese say they have no need of men, but in the matter of money they are doubtful on account of the duke's late expenses. They desire to have security from the king of Great Britain and the States that the duke will keep his engagements. The States for their part have let it be understood that they will not refuse if His Highness asks them. The Bernese are sorry that the duke has made an arrangement with the Spaniards, as they hoped to negotiate with better advantage while he was in difficulties.

Gio. Francesco Biondi, a subject of your Serenity, has been present at the assembly at Grenoble. He writes to me to say that he went there in order to inform the king of Great Britain of what took place.

*Zurich, the 10 October, 1615.*

*[Italian.]*

1615.

Oct. 10.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Firenze.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**58.** DOMENICO DOMINICI, Venetian Resident at Florence, to the DOGE and SENATE.

At Livorno they are making ready a ship and a Tartana of Captain John Rut, a Fleming, to go privateering under the Grand Duke's flag. The ship carries 24 pieces of artillery and some perriers, and the Tartana two large pieces; the two carry 150 men, including 60 soldiers, but their departure is delayed for lack of sailors.

On Monday the galleys of France, which have been in Barbary, passed towards Marseilles. They have taken Captain Brochetto, an English pirate, who armed at Villafranca, and recovered two French barques which he had captured.

Florence, the 10 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 13.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**59.** RANIER ZEN, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Biondi, who was sent by the king of England to the assembly of the Huguenots, has arrived here and called upon me accompanied by the ordinary resident of that monarch. I learned from him that he had been sent by His Majesty to the duke of Bouillon and to the said assembly. His orders were to intervene and see that matters passed peaceably; but the very day of his arrival they left for Nimes. He confirmed the dissensions between them and the Marshal Lesdiguières, who wished to bargain for the king's favour, and had promised to bridle them. From Nimes they sent an embassy to the king with their demands.

Biondi told me that he did not go to Nimes, but came straight here from Grenoble, because Lesdiguières had told him to go. He will leave in two days, making a long detour to avoid France.

Turin, the 13 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 13.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**60.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Resident at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Among the numerous rules and ordinances continually issued here to increase the revenues of the kingdom, one establishes a new charge upon all the consulates, namely that when shipwrecks of foreign vessels occur inventories shall be made and estimates of the damage by a new farmer, to the prejudice of the consuls of all the nations, who have all joined together to protest. I prevented the Venetian consul from joining with the rest, because I hope that the Viceroy will do nothing to the prejudice of our consulate.

Naples, the 13 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

1615.

Oct. 15.

Collegio,

Secreta.

Esposizioni

Principi.

Venetian

Archives.

61. The AMBASSADOR of ENGLAND came into the CABINET and presented the following letter:

Jacobus Dei gratia etc. M. Antonio Memmo Venetæ Republicæ Duci, amico nostro charissimo, salutem:

Cum legatus noster Dudleius Carletonus, quem anno superiori revocare decreveramus, nisi quod ad componendos tumultus, qui tunc temporis in Italia grassabantur, ejus opera commode carere non potuissemus, humillime a nobis petierit, ut ei liceret nostra bona cum venia ante ingravescentem hiemem reditum accelerare, petitioni tam juste indulgendum censuimus, eo facilius, quod Henricus Wottonus, eques auratus, quem in ejus locum surrogare statuimus, post unum, aut alterum mensem vos intersit. Hoc Serenitati Vestræ significandum censuimus pro communi nostra amicitia, quam omnibus officiis amoris et humanitatis conservare semper studebimus.

Datum apud Windsor, 4<sup>ta</sup> die Septembris, 1615.

Jacobus Rex.

After the letter had been read the ambassador spoke in complimentary terms, wishing prosperity to the republic and long life to the senators.

In the absence of the doge the senior councillor Mocenigo replied, regretting the departure of the ambassador, who had won the affection of all by his excellent qualities. Sir Henry Wotton would be welcome, both as the minister of His Majesty, and as a person well known and esteemed. Finally they wished him health and prosperity.

The ambassador returned thanks and said: I am emboldened by such courtesies to recall two affairs. One is in the hands of the Council of Ten to restore the two outlawed youths of Bergamo, who are now serving other princes; the other is in the hands of the reformers of the university of Padua, to promote the Doctor Giovanni Prevosto to a higher degree, where he may have greater opportunities to display his worth. I have received kind answers, but they have not been carried into effect; I modified the request, with a memorial sent to the Council of Ten. I am told that this is called the month of favours and I hope it may be so, for it is twelve months since I preferred this request.

Mocenigo replied that his requests would be considered, the Council of Ten and the Reformers would be consulted and everything possible done.

Finally the ambassador said that the season invited him to hasten his journey and he asked them to send to his house to seal his chests, so that they might not be disturbed on the journey. During the interval the Venetian Gregorio di Monte would remain, who had served as Secretary to himself and his predecessor.

Mocenigo replied that the Secretary would be received and the necessary instructions should be given for the despatch of his baggage.

With that he took leave and departed.

[Italian.]

1615.

Oct. 16.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**62. ANTONIO FOSCARINI and GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

In accordance with what I, Foscarini, wrote, the Master of the Ceremonies took the royal barge to Gravesend to fetch me, Barbarigo. He expressed his satisfaction at my arrival in the realm, in the name of His Majesty, and how readily he would always see me, saying that His Majesty regretted that he was not in London at the time of my arrival, but many miles away, so that I must necessarily incur some pains to go and see him in so distant a place. I replied to all this in a suitable manner, saying that I had never felt any inconvenience in serving His Majesty in any place, and it was an honour which His Majesty conferred upon me from so distant a place. He stayed with me, and on the following day we proceeded together in the same barges towards London, meeting on the way, some miles out, my Illustrious predecessor with a distinguished company. When we reached the coaches, we mounted the royal one, and I was taken to my predecessor's house. He pressed me to stay there to dinner with all the company, in particular some gentlemen of the ambassadors of France and Savoy, who had brought their carriages. The king is at Royston, two days away, and it is not yet known whether he will proceed to Newmarket or to Huntingdon, so one of the Masters of the Ceremonies said. It is quite certain that he will not be in London before the 5th or 6th prox. However, we hope to have audience within eight or ten days, during which time I, Barbarigo, shall be putting my affairs in order, as I must find liveries for my household and clothes for my children and myself, as during the two years which I have spent in the service of your Excellencies, since my departure from Venice, I have worn out elsewhere those which I had prepared for this embassy.

The queen remains at Greenwich under treatment and the prince is with the king. We shall pay ceremonial visits to them after seeing the king, which we shall do as soon as possible.

London, the 16 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 16.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**63. ANTONIO FOSCARINI and GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The duke of Bouillon left a good garrison at Sedan, and proceeded with the remainder of his forces towards Château Thierry (*Sciatoeteri*), a place fifteen leagues from Paris, where the Prince of Condé and all the other princes were assembled with all their forces. He arrived there on Monday week. On the following day they began a fierce attack on the place, which surrendered on Wednesday after resisting the bombardment of the artillery for a day and more. They made the inhabitants pay 50,000 crowns, which were divided among the troops. Subsequently Epernay and Chauny (*Scioni*), the latter a strong place, brought their keys to the prince, who, however, was still at Château Thierry on Saturday. The capture of these places\* is momentous, because

\* i.e., Chateau Thierry and Epernay. Chauny is on the Oise.

1615.

their being on the Marne gives them the command of that river. They held a secret conclave and finally decided to move towards Meaux (*Meos*) to take that town, in order to continue their progress towards Joigny (*Giorgium*) which belongs to those of the religion, and so proceed without interruption to the king. They have twelve to fourteen thousand infantry and rather less than three thousand horse. As they are afraid of losing what they hold in Picardy, the duke of Longueville will return to Corbie. The duke of Mayenne has sent for some field pieces and the capture of Château Thierry may be said to have taken place under the very nose of the Marshal of Boisdauphin. He has continually retired, as his forces are insufficient to offer resistance, and he has no orders to risk a battle. The army of the princes increases daily, while that of the Marshal is dwindling. The Marquis of Bonnivet has told us that *when they have put garrisons in the places which belong at heart to the princes, they will declare themselves, as without this it would show great imprudence to arm and begin a war with the winter near, without being sure of something to fall back upon and a welcome.* The same Marquis, on the 29th ult. wrote the enclosed letters to the Most Christian King, of which we send also a translation. Among other things he there states that in the midst of his persecutions he had no better course than to take refuge in the country of such a generous king as he of Great Britain, the ancient ally of France. He has received letters from the duke of Longueville, which he showed to the king. His Majesty kept them, saying that they required consideration.

The French ambassador says that he has letters of the 3rd from Poitiers which say that on the 6th their Most Christian Majesties are to continue their journey to Bordeaux, to perform the marriages. It is understood from other sources that in Poitou and the country near their Majesties, many were under arms, but your Serenity will have more detailed news of this from elsewhere.

On Sunday the ambassador of Savoy had audience of the king. He pressed His Majesty, in case the fighting in France continues to progress, to come to a decision and impart it to him, as his duke is deeply interested and has resolved to guide himself by the advice of His Majesty. The king replied that he had heard that the Princes had sent to ask for help from the duke, but he felt sure that His Highness was too wise to do anything for the moment, that it was necessary to wait and to see more clearly what support they enjoyed. He had already urged their Most Christian Majesties to grant the demands of the Princes and of those of the religion. If they agree, matters will end peacefully; otherwise he will have acquired a good pretext to assist the Princes. He will do this, and in good time His Highness shall have full information.

His Majesty went on to speak about events in France and informed him of some of the things which we have written. In speaking of the death of the late king, he seemed anxious to see it avenged. He spoke freely and publicly about this, sometimes even at his dinner.

*The Council has had long and frequent discussions of late, with a great diversity of opinion, in conformity with the divers interests, upon the summoning of the parliament and the proposals laid before it by*



1615.

*the king upon the affairs of France and Flanders. So far they have come to no decision, but the assembling of parliament must of necessity take place, whether it be sooner or later.*

New disputes have arisen between the Treasurer and the earl of Somerset with their backers on the one side, and on the other almost all the Council; to the latter side the queen also inclines.\*

The earl of Argyll has given battle in Scotland to a part of the rebels. They have taken refuge with others in the mountains, where they are protected by the ruggedness of the country and their knowledge of the passes.

I, Foscarini, reported last week the death of Madam Arabella. As she was so near a relation to the king and of such high rank, we think it right to add that they have debated whether they should put on mourning, as the queen desired, and where she should be buried. They decided that as she had died in some respects contumacious, the Court should not put on mourning, and that she should be buried wherever her people desired. Accordingly she has been placed in the same tomb as her grandmother in the royal burial place, near that of the prince. At her sudden death there occurred suddenly a severe shivering and lassitude in the lower part of her person. Her death is deplored by a great number of the chief people. The king has not said a word about it; he is the heir of her small property.

London, the 16 October, 1615.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**64.** Oath taken by the troops to the Prince on 14 September, 1615.

You shall swear to faithfully serve the king under the Prince's authority and no other, and promise to do nothing contrary to his service without giving notice, and serve him against all, especially against the five tyrants who have usurped the name of king and the royal authority, and also against those guilty of the death of the late king, so that they may be brought to justice.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**65.** Letter of M. de Bonnavet to the King of France.

Sire,—

As a subject of your Majesty and the descendant of those who have faithfully served your crown, I feel bound to acquaint you with the causes which have compelled me to withdraw to England. For a long while my words and actions have shown that I desired an enquiry into the death of the late king. This so stirred the hate of those concerned that they have tried every means to destroy me. Hearing daily of the murder of your faithful servants and of plots against myself, I have thought well to throw myself into the arms of a great and generous king, the ancient ally of your

\* Probably a reference to the petition of Somerset to the king to grant him a general pardon under the great seal, although Foscarini is much behind hand with his information. See Gardiner, *Hist. of England*, ii, pp. 329, 330.

1615.

crown, who is most anxious that enquiry should be made into the late king's death and the authors punished. Your Majesty may judge of the rage of these common enemies in that when they could not touch me they fell upon a place called Hardelot, which your Majesty gave me, and they also wished to take another place called Etaples, because I stayed there ten or twelve days. I beg your Majesty to render me justice against these villains, who daily prove that they desire more harm to your Majesty than even to me.

London, the 29 September, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 17.  
Senato,  
Terra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**66. To the KING of GREAT BRITAIN.**

In praise of Dudley Carleton, who has been ambassador for four years and is now to be recalled.

Ayes 130.

Noes 2.

Neutrals 3.

[*Latin.*]

Oct. 17.  
Senato,  
Terra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**67. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND and his next successor.**

The day before yesterday the Ambassador Carleton took leave of us, having received leave from His Majesty to do so before the arrival of his successor. We are writing to His Majesty in his praise, and send you a copy of the letter. We direct you to confer with him, as we esteem him highly. You will also express our satisfaction with his successor.

That 1,000 crowns be expended upon a gold chain to be presented to the ambassador in the name of the Signory.

That the governor of the Customs be instructed to go to the ambassador's house and seal his chests and things in order that they may pass freely.

Ayes 130.

Noes 2.

Neutrals 3.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**68. PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The English ambassador is hastening to the court. He delayed coming in order to allow to-morrow's ceremony to be performed, in which he has no place. He is thought to be bringing some instructions from his king to intervene in the settlement of the dispute with the Princes, and to perform good offices in this respect.

Bordeaux, the 17 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

1615.

Oct. 18.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**69. PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

I have just returned from church, where I took part at the marriage of Madame, at the invitation of their Majesties. The duke of Guise represented the person of the king of Spain. Before Madame left I went and offered my congratulations.

Bordeaux, the 18 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**70. RANIER ZEN, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The ministers have never been to tell me the news of Montferrat, as His Highness said they would. I believe, however, that the duke means to take exact information before moving in order to justify himself before the powers, showing that the articles of the treaty have not been observed as regards Mantua and he has pointed this out to the resident of England, to whom they have also shown other matters.

I have received the instructions of your Serenity of the 10th inst. upon the marriages; they caused me some perplexity, but I resolved to lay everything frankly before His Highness. The duke sent for me to the vineyard while I was dining with the resident of England, from whom I received the information which I send in the following letter.

Turin, the 20 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**71. RANIER ZEN, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The resident of England told me that His Highness had sent for him and had arranged with him to send a courier to England this week to relate how the duke had disarmed and fulfilled his part of the treaty, and that the Spaniards are not doing theirs. He will also relate the proceedings of Marini, urging His Majesty to protect the duke. But I believe that there is something else behind these affairs of France. The resident told His Highness that he understood that the governor and the Spaniards were willing to disarm, but as a reward of his readiness and not to look too closely into things; they wish a passage through the state for two-thirds of their troops. He asked His Highness to refuse this and argued that the period of six months should only begin after everything had been settled; that His Highness had promised not to allow them to pass unless His Majesty consented. In this connection the duke told me one day that he had asked advice of a councillor of his on this point, because he perceived that the Spaniards intend to demand this passage of him soon.

Turin, the 20 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

1615.

Oct. 22.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**72. GIOVANNI RIZZARDO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.**

*I remember that your Excellencies commanded me to write frequently, and therefore while I remain in these parts I will not omit to send word of every detail, however slight its importance. Various rumours have recently been circulated that Muscorno has been released from prison. The news comes from the house of the Spanish ambassador, who was said to have heard it and to have expressed his satisfaction. This is reported by a Genoese of the Soprani family who frequents that house. When it appeared that the news was not true some thought and publicly stated that it was a Spanish fabrication to discredit the Ambassador Foscari at his departure, because they do not like him. In this connection I may observe that since my arrival here a complete transformation has taken place in this embassy with respect to its standing. I will leave your Excellencies to receive word of this by common report. I may, however, state that in my time no scandal of any moment has arisen, although they are said to have occurred frequently before. I have laboured with all my energies to put a stop to the reports that were circulating before. Thus Casella, who used to be steward here, has been reconciled with the ambassador and good relations are established between them. He stood in the way because he had been in the confidence of Muscorno. I have done everything I could think of which might prove of use to His Excellency and to the public service. I claim no merit for this, because it is my duty. I must not forget to mention that the Ambassador Foscari is collecting proofs of his charges against the Secretary Muscorno. He attaches importance to this and has frequently spoken to me about it, occasionally asking my opinion. I have been obliged to answer and conduct myself in conformity with your commands, in order not to excite his suspicions. I am confident that neither he nor any one else suspects anything. I thought it well, however, that the Ambassador Barbarigo should be informed of it tactfully and that his Secretary should also participate, as being disinterested and not suspected of bias of any kind. Your Excellencies shall receive fuller information on our return, as I cannot send everything even if I wished to. I am bound to say that I experience great difficulties and have to act with the utmost circumspection, but I trust to God's guidance, as I have done during twenty-seven years of service, and I trust He will show me what course it is best to pursue.*

*London, the 22nd October, 1615.*

*[Italian; deciphered.]*

Oct. 23.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**73. ANTONIO FOSCARINI and GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The king has proceeded to Newmarket, a place three days journey from here, where he is practising his usual recreations of the chase, with a few attendants. The Master of the Ceremonies has informed us that the resources of that place would be little adapted for such a reception as the greatness of His Majesty and of your Excellencies would require, especially for a first audience, in a fitting style. However, we had him to dinner with us here the day

1615

before yesterday and expressed our desire for an audience as early as possible if it could be arranged satisfactorily for the convenience and pleasure of His Majesty. He replied in the same sense and promised to send word immediately to His Majesty. He has done this. We shall not fail to request a audience as much as we judge to be fitting, as I, Barbarigo, wish to enter upon this office, it being my third year away, and I, Foscarini, desire to return at length to the feet of your Serenity after eleven years.

The person sent by the king of Denmark informed the king here of the losses suffered by Brunswick in making an assault upon the town by the advice of His Majesty. The duke ran great personal risk in the course of the attack. He added that at the meeting of the Hanse towns at Lubeck, where the deputies of four of the United Provinces also took part, they decided not only to defend Brunswick, but other things besides, prejudicial to Denmark. Upon this he made bitter complaints, expressed in letters very energetically. The king has seen these with some emotion, and has written everywhere to smooth these disputes and terminate them in a peaceful manner.

By order of the magistrates of Cologne, in conformity with the orders of the emperor promulgated in that town, about seven hundred armed citizens sallied forth with a considerable following of artisans, and proceeded to Mulheim, where in a short time they broke down and razed all the houses and buildings. By this action and still more by the war of Brunswick, fomented by the strong supporters of both parties, the affairs of Germany seem in great confusion. Sir [Henry] Wotton tells us that the States are raising 4,000 infantry, but we have no other information about this. Of the restoration of Wesel and the other places, all hope seems to have disappeared and all negotiations are broken off, as the States delay their reply to the instances of the king.

We have heard reports here of the death of the duke of Neuburg by the hand of his own brother. If this is verified the treaty of Santen would fall through, the second son would succeed, who is of another confession and of different interest and religion from Spain.

Owing to the severe and insupportable damage inflicted by pirates, the merchants of the two principal companies here have decided, with the co-operation of the Admiral, to arm vessels to extirpate them if they can. The money has already been raised, the king has given his consent, and the Council did the same on the third day. Next week the finishing touches will be put to this. There will be from twelve to fifteen ships with other vessels called pinnaces. They will be divided into various squadrons and will scour these seas, the coasts of Spain and between the Strait and Corsica and Sardinia. All that they take which has been for twenty-four hours in the possession of the pirates will be considered as lawful booty. Of what they so take one half will go to the owners and the rest to them. This second half will be divided into three portions, the first for the master of the ship, the second to provide food and other necessities, and the third for the sailors and others who serve on board. They have spoken to the Spanish ambassador and written to the king's ambassador there to receive permission and have free access for these ships in all the ports of

1615.

the Catholic king. They have assigned a share of the booty and no fixed wages for the men in order to excite their diligence and make them work successfully.

Some one has arrived here from the king of Morocco. We do not yet know whether he comes on business pertaining to the king, or more especially for the merchants. We will make enquiries and send word as soon as he has seen the king and presented his commissions.

London, the 28 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 23.  
Senato,  
Secreta,  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

74. ANTONIO FOSCARINI and GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Some companies of horse of the Prince engaged others of the Marquis of Boisdaphin who were greatly superior in numbers, so that the Prince's men were worsted. The Count of St. Paul, who has come over from the king's side, enjoys a great consideration. It appears that the Princes of Germany and the Elector Palatine, who were hotter than the others in favour of the Princes, are now somewhat more reserved. The Marquis of Ancre, having won the Mayor of Abbeville by money, has thrown a number of men into that town under various disguises and pretexts. He also sent there a boat with 400 pistols, but this was discovered and the plan failed. The mayor has been detained by the infuriated populace and the whole magistracy is in imminent peril. We may remark for your more precise information that Abbeville is one of the principal towns of Picardy and has always been self-governing, without receiving a governor from the king, so that the discovery of such a design has caused a great commotion among the populace.

The day before yesterday a gentleman sent by the Princes to the King passed through. It must have been in order to inform His Majesty of the effect of their decisions and to beg him to declare himself and to assist them openly. It is certain that the king will not take the smallest step or come to any decision upon this before he has received the reply of their Most Christian Majesties to his representations and proposals, which are the same as those which we have frequently reported to your Excellencies. The Princes punctually pay the troops who are in their service.

Here they were eagerly awaiting the issue of the affairs of which we are writing, and of the marriages between France and Spain, from which will arise, in great measure, the negotiations about the prince. We can assure your Serenity that at the moment no negotiations about this are on foot. It is true that the ambassador of Spain throws out a word now and again about them with some of his most intimate friends, but nothing tangible has yet come of it, and the king especially is far from being inclined that way.

A shipmaster, who, in the late disturbances of Italy, promised the Council of Spain to surprise Villafranca and received 4,000 crowns in advance from that ambassador, is now sued to restore the money.

1615.

On Saturday M. d'Herlai\* arrived here, the ordinary ambassador of the Lords of Berne to his Most Christian Majesty. He at once went post to the king. Owing to the short time that he spent here we have not been able to discover what he brings. We will make enquiries on his return and report to your Excellencies. Meanwhile we must not omit to state that he complained that a messenger of his taking his letters to Berne had been detained by the men of the Marshal of Boisdaphin at the instigation of M. de Reffugé, to whom he had given offence, and the letters opened, his man being cast into prison. The French, upon this, immediately sent orders to M. de la Castiglia, ambassador in Switzerland, to complain to the Lords of Berne of two things, the chief matter in the said letters, namely the sending of printed remonstrances of the prince of Conde, in order that they might be re-printed in German and published throughout Germany; the other the persuading of the Council of that town not to allow his Most Christian Majesty to levy any troops if they should be asked, as they would be used either against the Princes or against those of the religion, and both would be prejudicial to the interests of that republic.

London, the 23 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 27.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**75.** RANIER ZEN, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have news from France that the ambassador of England had instructions to go immediately post to the queen, and make urgent representations to her on behalf of his king, to come to an accommodation with the Princes. If she would not agree to this he was to protest that his king would side with the Princes and help them. This news is true, because the writer heard it in Paris from the Ambassador himself, who was at the time making haste to set out.

Turin, the 27 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 30.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**76.** ANTONIO FOSCARINI and GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The king's secretary has sent word that as His Majesty will be here next week, it will be more convenient for us and will please him better if the audience is postponed until his return. As we should spend that amount of time in going to find the king and returning to London, he argued that we should be no worse off. No reply has come to the instances made subsequently by the Master of the Ceremonies.

The ambassador of Berne on his return from what may be called a sort of private interview with the king has been to call on us, with an introduction from the king's physician. From two long interviews we have gathered that the close understanding

\* Called the Baron d'Arlac in a despatch of Edmondos to the king from Paris, 28 Sept., 1615, O.S. *State Papers, Foreign. France. Vol. 64.*

1615.

between the king here and the Bernese grows continually closer; that he came on a mission of this kind and is expecting letters from his masters upon it, which are bound to be very circumspect and reserved owing to the unfortunate occurrence which happened in France. It seems that his visit here is also to place himself under the treatment of the king's physician, an old acquaintance of his. In his conversations with us upon the affairs of France he showed himself a friend of the prince of Condé and of the others, in whose name and by whose instructions he is said to have spoken to His Majesty; this comes to us from the house of the secretary. He spoke strongly against the Chancellor and the others who now govern, and said that the Princes were most anxious for moderation. He talked with us also, saying that by the last advices received from Berne his master expected a reply from the Grisons about the pass. He seemed to hope that due satisfaction would be received from the three leagues; however, we need not write more about this, as your Serenity will have full information from elsewhere. The king, in the audience which he had, asked him about the state of these affairs and made strong representations in order to show him how much the success of the negotiations would be advantageous to his masters. We have avoided making this known to his masters in regular form, as we know that he will have done all this, as I, Barbarigo, know him personally as one of the best intentioned men of that town. He told us that the duke of Wirtemberg has some grievance against the Archduke in the matter of Burgundy, because the parliament of Dol will not carry out a certain decision made previously upon their affairs in the Parliament at Grenoble, of which the Duke has sent full particulars to Berne, expressing his intention to procure the execution by other means and asking for their assistance. He throws out some expression about coming to a league with them. To all these things they have sent back a very formal reply for the present and are debating what they had better do in order to give satisfaction to the Duke, whom they think highly of, owing to his proximity to the Swiss and especially to the town of Schaffhausen.

News from Holland this week state that there is less hope than ever with regard to the affairs of Cleves, the restitution of the places and the approval of the document. The departure from here of the Archduke's ambassador makes matters desperate, as he leaves no successor, and he has received permission and instructions from the Archduke to leave. Nothing detains him except the absence of the King, from whom he cannot take leave, although he has frequently asked permission.

London, the 30 October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 30.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**77.** ANTONIO FOSCARINI and GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

We do not hear that the prince of Condé has made any fresh acquisition since our last, but only that he was marching towards Champagne with the Marshal of Boisdaphin amid anathemas



1615.

following him at a distance. The Prince has decided to make a new remonstrance to the King, in which he will mention by name those concerned in the late king's death. On Sunday the French ambassador received letters from Puisieux, which he immediately sent on to show to the ambassador of Spain. They speak of the marriage between the King and the Infanta of Spain on the 18th inst., that on the last day of this month the exchange of the Princess and the Infanta will be made on the frontiers; the latter is expected at Bordeaux on the 12th, and the marriage would immediately be consummated, and three or four days later their Majesties would set out together with all their court, a numerous company, on their way back to Paris.

With regard to the fighting in France, the Ambassador of Berne said that they would not lay down their arms before the Chancellor and the others, who now rule as they please, have been deposed from their Government. The Marquis of Bonnivet said the same thing. On the other hand, the French ambassador asserts that his king will not make settlement by the intervention of any prince, as it does not accord with his dignity and sovereignty, that if Condé and the others will submit and return to court they will be pardoned and graciously received. The most recent letters that the king has received from his ambassador state that he was working for an accommodation with some hope of success. We will send word to your Excellencies of what we hear from every quarter, leaving the rest to your judgment.

On Sunday a Council was held upon arming against the pirates, which we wrote about a week ago. As they came to no decision on that day, it was settled on Tuesday that they should not only arm those of the two companies, as we reported, but others also, but upon condition that they give security not to become pirates; this security will vary in amount according to the size of the vessels. They are urging the king to issue patents pardoning those pirates who agree to give up buccaneering and who will join them. They put forward various arguments as to the benefits to be expected from such a course. It is estimated that the number of ships that will set out will amount to 22 or 25 at least, without counting smaller vessels. For the first year it will undoubtedly produce great good, but it is feared that in the progress of time the good arrangements may become corrupt, especially if they obtain the patents which they are asking for.

*Dissension and hatred are continually on the increase at court, to the great concern of the King. The earl of Somerset is accused of having taken several of the Crown jewels which were in the Tower, and of having, together with his wife and father-in-law, poisoned a cavalier of repute, who was a prisoner in the Tower at the time.\* All these are in great peril. The Parliament will certainly meet now, because with the fate of these persons, who opposed it, all objections will disappear.*

London, the 30 October, 1615.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

\* The particulars of the murder of Sir Thomas Overbury began to leak out in September, and towards the end of October the king appointed a commission to enquire into the matter.

1615.

Oct. 30.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**78. GIOVANNI RIZZARDO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.**

*Our departure hence seems likely to be delayed, as it certainly will not take place next month and possibly not even till late in the month following. From what the Ambassador Foscarini says, I do not see that we can expect to move until about Christmas time. He then proposes to pass through Germany and then by the Grisons and Switzerland to see the country, and then to visit Saroy, I do not know how. But nothing has been definitely arranged, so that I cannot state decidedly when we may hope to be on the road. Your Excellencies will expect to hear from me the reasons for this delay. No doubt he could have gained time had he taken more pains to obtain audience and other things. If I may humbly state my opinion to your Excellencies, I think that Sig. Foscarini thinks it strange, indeed he says so, that after so many years of service he should return to Venice with the same rank as when he left; and therefore he keeps procrastinating to see if something will turn up.*

*Although I see no way of giving your Excellencies complete satisfaction with regard to the affairs which concern Muscornio, yet I think it proper to give you a summary of the charges made against him by the ambassador. They are, that he has been to heretical churches to sing on several occasions, in the company of Protestant priests, dressed in their vestments, publicly before a great concourse of people; that he tried to obtain from the king the fruits of certain lands as a gift and arranged with the Earl of Argyll to sell them to him afterwards for 600 crowns; that he had carried on secret negotiations with the Ambassador of Flanders by night at a time when his Excellency did not enjoy good relations with that ambassador for well known causes. That he asked for and obtained audience of the king and queen separately from the ambassador, and had secured extraordinary presents; that in addition to speaking ill of the ambassador habitually before the great men and others of the court to the prejudice of the ambassador's reputation and consequently of the republic, he had either alone or with Lotti and Biondi concocted and then published a libellous book against the ambassador personally; that he several times attempted and offered money to secretly open the public packets of letters of the ambassador here in London, and recently at Dover, and finally it had become known that he had secretly sent copies of public letters to private individuals at Venice, separately from the public packet. Sig. Foscarini is collecting evidence upon these points, and he has recently succeeded in inducing Sig. Barbarigo to take the deposition upon oath of one who had been Muscornio's servant upon some of the particulars aforesaid. I will send word if anything further happens worthy of the notice of your Excellencies.*

*London, the 30th October, 1615.*

*[Italian; deciphered.]*

Oct. 31.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**79. PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*The English ambassador has arrived at Court, has seen their Majesties and negotiated with the ministers. He brings instructions to offer the intervention of his king with the Princes and*

1615.

those of the religion, in order to find some satisfactory solution of the present difficulties, and he expresses his interest in the well-being and greatness of this kingdom. But although they have thanked the king for the good will which he displays in these emergencies, they have none the less given the ambassador to understand that they are aware of the encouragement which he has always given to stir up similar movements, and their dissatisfaction with him.

The nuncio and the Spanish ambassador have made similar advances in the name of their princes. They have been well received and the ministers here would rather see them engaged upon these negotiations than the other, but the feeling of the other side towards them makes it clear that such offers serve no purpose except to express the good-will of their masters.

In order to prevent Royan from exacting the custom imposed by the duke of Rohan they are arming the ships in this port, and they wish to make use of some English and Scotch bertonas as being better than the others. But the English ambassador offers a vigorous opposition to this, saying that it is contrary to the conventions that the ships of his king should defend the ports of others.

Bordeaux, the last day of October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 4.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Grisoni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

80. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian secretary with the Swiss and Grisons, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Encloses memorial from Sig. Vimes.

Zurich, the 4 November, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

81. Cornelius de Vimes, a Flemish gentleman of good birth and a Catholic, who took part in the war of Cleves and especially in the famous siege of Juliers, with Captain Gerard Herbert, an Englishman, who served in Germany, Bohemia and Austria and who went to Constantinople to learn the Turkish method of fighting, by the French and English ambassadors, asks for a recognition of his services to the republic under the Ambassador Barbarigo and the Secretary Surian, as he has received no more than 80 crowns.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 6.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

82. GIOVANNI RIZZARDO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*I must not omit to advise your Excellencies of everything that happens day by day. Last Sunday I went to pay a formal call upon the Archbishop of Canterbury in the name of the Ambassador Foscari, who sent me in his place because of the rainy weather, though he should have gone himself because he had announced his intention beforehand. I first offered the excuses of his Excellency for not coming after enquiring after his health, asked him to prepare something for the ambassador's departure and similar things. He answered*

1615.

me very courteously. I asked him if there was any news and among other things he spoke to me about the Secretary Muscorno. He told me that the king had already received the news of his detention from his ambassador. He had letters from Venice, he did not say from whom, which informed him not only of the detention but of the reasons for it. That it was for three causes, firstly because he had spoken evil of the Ambassador Foscarini in London and maligned his character; the second for having composed a libellous book upon the things said and done by the ambassador, and the third for having an understanding with the Spanish ambassador. Of the first he said that it was perfectly true that Muscorno had performed such offices with all the lords of the Council. He had heard many things said by them to the disadvantage of the ambassador, and had taken his part, telling them not to believe these things so readily and to suspend their judgment until they were better informed. He said he had defended the arguments and the honour of the ambassador like a friend, as he professes to be, to his very utmost. On the second point he said he was almost certain that the book had been composed by the secretary in conjunction with Biondi as was reported; that it was full of obscenity and absurd things. I begged him to favour the ambassador by allowing him to see the book; and he promised that he would get it for me. On the third point he said nothing further to me, but after some complimentary phrases I took leave. The ambassador subsequently called upon him without me. His Excellency told me that the archbishop had said practically the same to him, but with the addition that with respect to the Spanish ambassador he said that Muscorno had revealed public secrets to him. When he exclaimed in astonishment, Do I understand secret information of the republic? He repeated, Yes, secrets. The archbishop usually speaks Latin and speaks it well. I simply report these facts to your Excellencies; I have also communicated them to the Ambassador Barbarigo. At the instance of Sig. Foscarini, the Sig. Barbarigo in conjunction with him and in my presence continues to take information upon the charges laid against Muscorno, as I reported in my last.

By the last letters from Venice which arrived this week Sig. Foscarini has been warned that if he returns by the ordinary route of the ambassadors on their way home, he will certainly fall into an ambush, as his enemies are lying in wait for him, and therefore he had better make the journey by France and Saxoy. These are the words and they have made him somewhat afraid and still more unsettled. He proposes now to take the latter way, so that he may arrive home sooner than he thought, if he does not wait for a reply to his letters asking for further information.

I must not omit to state that William the Scotchman,\* who was in the service of His Excellency and was tried for proposing to murder Muscorno, is now here in the service of a certain Dr. Mayerne, who lives in this city. I send all this news in accordance with my duty, so as not to omit anything that may be of use.

London, the 6th November, 1615.

[Italian; deciphered.]

\* William Lumsden.

1615.  
Nov. 7.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**83. ANTONIO FOSCARINI and GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

In three days the king will be here, and we are assured that we shall have audience of him on the following day, and of the queen and prince soon after. The latest news that His Majesty has from France is that the Lord of Praslin (*Prati*), with 800 horse, has routed the prince of Tingry, who was returning to unite with Condé, capturing all his baggage, together with some amount of money, which they say amounts to 20,000 crowns. The prince of Condé has done everything in order to give battle to the Marshal of Boisdauphin (*Boduffin*), who on his side has retreated, and is only trying to keep him employed and to gain time until the king's return. The Marshal of Ancre has sent a certain body of troops towards Corbie. He has built a fort there, garrisoned by a good number of infantry, and some companies of his horse are scouring the country. It is understood that those of the religion are making themselves felt in various places, and accordingly His Most Christian Majesty is levying large numbers of men in Guienne. The Marquis of Bonnavet has been awaiting for several days the return of a gentleman of his sent to the Princes in France. He attributes the delay to the road being blocked. He has seen the king recently, but found him somewhat worried by domestic affairs and home politics. and so he thought it better to put off his own business to another time. As a matter of fact, these pre-occupations have diverted His Majesty from everything else, have delayed his return and consequently our audience.

At Brunswick extensive provisions are being made both for offence and defence. Maurice, with the consent of the United Provinces, has enlisted some troops for the defence of the town, and the duke of Luxemburg is exerting himself to the same purpose. The king of Denmark, on the other hand, is arming and doing what he can to help the duke, and is urging him strongly to make good his pretensions by force.

The affair of Mulheim has caused considerable dissatisfaction here, and it is considered certain that rumours of war will be heard from those parts at the earliest season.

In Scotland the Earl of Argyll is labouring and scoring successes, but not sufficiently, as the insurgents continue to offer a vigorous resistance, aided as they are by the nature of the country and those who foment them.

The talk about the assembling of Parliament grows constantly more frequent, as of a thing resolved upon and certain. We will speak of domestic affairs in our next, as, although they concern individuals, yet they seem to preoccupy the king greatly. \*

London, the 7 November, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 7.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**84. ANTONIO FOSCARINI and GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

George<sup>o</sup> Carr, a simple gentleman by birth and introduced to the king's service as a page, succeeded little by little in gaining

\* Robert.

1615.

the king's favour, so that he was successively created knight, baron Brandspeth, Viscount Rochester, a knight of the Garter, earl of Somerset, Grand Chamberlain of England, Grand Treasurer of Scotland, Keeper of the Privy Seal, and Warden of the Cinque Ports, and it seemed that His Majesty could not find anything, however great it might be, which he thought good enough for him. It is said that he was to have been made Marquis of Durham (*Duren*) and was expected daily to be proclaimed duke of the Orkneys.

Some months ago<sup>o</sup> it was stated that he had appropriated a considerable quantity of the Crown jewels; to secure himself on this question and upon every other charge he begged His Majesty for an absolute pardon even so far as the crime of high treason. He obtained the promise and signature. The order was sent to the Lord Chancellor to receive the great seal. He refused to affix it. Both were summoned to the king's presence and spoke on their knees. One adduced the reasons against such a pardon, which were very weighty, and said that in any case it would be necessary, if he affixed the seal, that His Majesty should grant him a special pardon for having done so, otherwise it was against the laws of the realm, and at the convocation of parliament he would lose his head. The other called the Lord Chancellor his enemy, and pressed his petition. While the rest of the Lords of the Council who were present were hanging on the king's lips, His Majesty said that he had loved Somerset, thinking him of good character, and he would continue to do so. Then turning to the Chancellor and the others, he said that it was not in his power or in that of any of them to divert him from his purpose, but it rested with Somerset alone if he should not prove unworthy. He then commanded the Chancellor to affix the seal without making any reply, because he desired it, and commanded it by his royal authority, and so he passed to his own apartments. When this came to the queen's knowledge she immediately left her palace for the king's, and contrived to induce him to suspend the order to put the seal to the pardon, and it has never been affixed.

Somerset is also accused of other crimes and in particular of having poisoned a knight of high standing, his own friend,<sup>†</sup> who was in the Tower by the king's command, as we wrote. It is further suspected that he had a share in the death of the late prince by those who say that His Highness died of poison, and who are ill affected towards the living prince. The published matter concerns the death of this knight, and the one who gave him the poison was put to death the day before yesterday.<sup>‡</sup> The Countess of Somerset is under arrest for the same crime. They speak also of the wife of the Lord Treasurer, and some even of the Lord Treasurer himself, but this is not certain. The outcome cannot be predicted, but from what we hear he will certainly lose all his possessions and will be confined in the Tower during the king's good pleasure. Thus the man who in the course of no more than eight years and at the age of twenty-six had won the highest

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<sup>o</sup> In July.

<sup>†</sup> Sir Thomas Overbury.

<sup>‡</sup> Richard Weston.

1615.

dignities of these kingdoms, with a property of about three millions of gold, will have lost all in a moment, as well as the king's favour, to which he owed all these benefits.

London, the 7 November, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 7.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

85. PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Prince crossed the Loire on the 28th ult. This has greatly increased his reputation, and they complain bitterly about the Marshal Boisdauphin for not having prevented it. The Princes are expected to march through Touraine into Poitou. The queen and ministers, although they discount the importance of this event, are naturally very anxious. Villeroi and the Marshal of Ancre are now jointly advocating peace. A rumour has recently got abroad that they will ask the Spaniards for help. When the English ambassador heard this, he began to speak out boldly. He told them and me also that he held instructions to acquaint their Majesties that if the Spaniards enter this kingdom the king, his master, would also send English, as it was not in his interest that that nation should approach his frontiers.

Bordeaux, the 7 November, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 7.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

86. PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

No reply has as yet been given to the advances of the English ambassador, offering in his king's name to intervene in the present troubles, although he is pressing his services energetically upon them. They find some difficulty in making up their minds, as they fear that the refusal of these offers may give offence and augment the troubles. On the other hand, if they allow him to intervene, they know that he would be too eager to advance the interests of those of the religion in indulging their pretensions and obtaining the satisfaction of their demands. In addition to this they are most unwilling that that king, by such negotiations, should lay the Huguenots under an obligation to him and draw to himself so large a part of the kingdom.

The Nuncio has said nothing further, so it is clear that his offer was only intended to show the good disposition of the pope for peace. A composition becomes constantly more difficult, as the Princes will now insist upon the granting of all their demands, which it is impossible for the king to do.

Bordeaux, the 7th November, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

1615.  
Nov. 10.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disparci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**87. PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Our express messenger has reached here with the news that the exchange of the princesses took place yesterday.

Bordeaux, the 10 November, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 10.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disparci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**88. RANIER ZEN, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Yesterday evening after dark His Highness sent to the resident of England telling him to go to bed early because he wished to speak with him the first thing this morning. I cannot wait longer to gather further particulars because the courier must be sent off earlier than usual to arrive at Milan in time, owing to the bad roads.

Turin, the 10 November, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 13.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disparci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**89. ANTONIO FOSCARINI and GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The king arrived here on Tuesday evening and immediately fixed the following day for our audience, as we wrote that he would do. Accordingly Lord Hay came to the house of me, Barbarigo, with ten coaches, among which were two of His Majesty, and twenty of the principal cavaliers of the Court and we proceeded together with this company and with many additional coaches of ambassadors and others. When we reached the king's palace we found everything in readiness and all the halls and apartments full of people. We entered the place where His Majesty sat, under a canopy, accompanied by the prince and a great number of lords. He welcomed us very graciously, and I, Foscari, began to tell him that as I had been on duty for a period of five years, your Excellencies had graciously allowed me to return after a period of eleven years of continual service; that in my place you had sent the Most Illustrious Barbarigo, who with his noble qualities will afford His Majesty the best services. I enlarged in his praises, seeing that the king listened to me graciously. I, Barbarigo, after expressing the satisfaction of your Serenity at the good health and prosperity of His Majesty and all the royal house, spoke the continuation of the most friendly disposition of your Serenity, and all that I was instructed to say, more particularly my desire to serve him in this charge. His Majesty heard all with much graciousness and an extraordinary demonstration of affection. He expressed how much he valued the friendship of your Excellencies and said how much he desired to have opportunities of showing his own. The reception was more favourable than is ordinary and His Majesty received me as minister and said that all who returned from our parts bore testimony to the good treatment which they received there, and he knew how kind I, Barbarigo, had been to some of them. He had received a full account about it from the Earl of Arundel, who was present there.



1615.

I, Foscarini, told the prince in a low voice that the Most Illustrious Barbarigo had a commission from your Excellencies to visit His Highness, and I, Barbarigo, confirmed this. The prince seemed pleased and replied smiling that he would be very pleased to receive the favour of your Excellencies at my visit. Meanwhile the king turned to me, Foscarini, and said that he knew I was very pleased to leave such a successor in my place and laying his hand on my arm he said he should like to see me, using other most gracious expressions. Thus after making a profound reverence to His Majesty and the prince we took leave and departed, followed by the same company as far as the house from which they fetched us. There I, Barbarigo, pressed them all to stay to dinner with me, as I did not wish to omit anything which might serve the reputation of your Excellencies and the satisfaction of the Court here.

We shall use every effort to see the queen and the prince, and I, Foscarini, will take leave of His Majesty, as we have already preferred our requests for this and they should be immediately granted. I, Barbarigo, owing to the sufferings which I underwent on my journey and the fatigues of the past two years am suffering from severe disorder and parching up of the blood (*intemperie et adustione di sangue*) which causes me constant anxiety. I have been compelled to undergo a tedious and noxious treatment to add to my troubles. However your Excellencies may rest assured that while I have life and breath I shall leave nothing undone which may advance the service of your Serenity.

London, the 13 November, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 18.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

90. ANTONIO FOSCARINI and GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

We have received the letters of your Serenity of the 17th ult. in which you direct us to assure the king of the satisfaction which you have received from the Ambassador Carleton. As I, Foscarini, am to be the first to see His Majesty, when I take leave, as I hope to do in one or two days, I will execute your commands, and I, Barbarigo, on the arrival of the Ambassador Carleton, will not fail to make the representations to him which you desire, informing him of the satisfaction of your Serenity, while I will sing his praises to His Majesty.

The king has declared the duke of Lennox High Steward, an extraordinary charge and the greatest in the kingdom, a sort of superior Major Domo, which has not been conferred on any one for forty-seven years. They say that the Earl of Somerset will be put in the Tower to-day and deprived of all his charges and of the privy seal. The countess, his wife, confesses to having had recourse to witchcraft in order to obtain the love of the deceased prince, and the bronze statue made for this purpose has been found. They also argue that Viscount Bindon, Lord Dunbar and the Earl of Essex (*Hesses*) were poisoned, the two first dying. That Essex survived owing to his youthful strength, but lost his hair and his nails and became an invalid. The rumour and suspicion about the late prince also continue, as we reported. Sir

1615.

[Thomas] Howard (*Ouard*), second son of the Lord Treasurer, was also thrown into prison the day before yesterday, and so was the brother of the Earl of Dorset (*Orset*)\* and many others of lesser quality; thus the whole court is in a state of commotion. The king, who was to have left on Monday, is understood to desire to delay his going for four or five days, and meanwhile the prosecution of Somerset at any rate will take place. The Lieutenant of the Tower will lose his charge and they fear his head also, as he was closely questioned yesterday.

*One of the most important of the Lords of the Council told us that the most important documents of the king have come into the hands of Spain, who has bribed more than one of the ministers with a great sum of money. They are taking proceedings to discover everything; one has already been convicted and others are indicated. He told us much of the ill offers performed by the ministers and pistoles of Spain, and speaking with emotion he said that strong steps must be taken, hinting that the king was inclined to this.*

On the third day the secretary of the Most Christian ambassador returned here from France. The ambassador sent immediately to the king for an audience, which he had yesterday. We will endeavour to find out about it and report to your Excellencies. What is known is that on the 28th the Prince of Condé was to pass the Loire on a bridge of boats, but the Marshal Boisdauhin drew near with his army, and destroyed part of the bridge with his artillery. As they were within range of each other they exchanged several shots.

The king has letters from his ambassador in Spain in which he says that the Catholic king is unwilling to send the Infanta to France before he sees the disturbances there settled. This news has proved welcome and has provided matter for discussion for the Lords of the Government and leaves the king and everyone else very anxious to hear it confirmed.

Count Henry has taken the field with 2,000 horse, 4,000 foot and six pieces of artillery; there are various rumours as to his objective. The ambassador of Holland has arrived back here from the States. We will try to obtain from him full particulars of what he is bringing.

London, the 13 November, 1615.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Nov. 13.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato,  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

91. GIOVANNI RIZZARDO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

*The Ambassador Foscari still continues to accumulate evidence upon the charges laid against Muscornio, getting the Ambassador Barbarigo to take information and depositions. He is also preparing his defence against the charges which he hears are made against him by Muscornio. It is probable that he will bring an authentic copy of everything to Venice with him, but your Excellencies should know that these documents have passed through the hands of the Secretary Lionello, and are now in the possession of the Ambassador Barbarigo,*

\* Edward Sackville, imprisoned for conduct relative to the trial of Richard Weston. *Cal. State Papers. Domestic.* 1611-8. p. 344.

1615.

*who is fully informed upon the details of the matter, and is continually accumulating fresh material.*

*Sig. Foscarini has at length decided to leave here as soon as possible, when he has had his audiences and arranged his private affairs and other matters. He will return by France, although on account of the dangers announced he gives out publicly that he intends to travel by way of Germany. He is no longer thinking of stopping so long, as he has heard by the last ordinary that he cannot now hope for any fresh honours, which he proposed to wait for, but that he may rather expect favours of another kind.*

*London, the 18th November, 1615.*

*[Italian ; deciphered.]*

Nov. 15.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**92.** PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The queen is expected next week. Nothing is known about any progress in the negotiations for peace, and they are almost entirely abandoned. A few days ago they replied to the English ambassador, thanking his king for his care for the welfare of this realm and for his courteous offices. For the rest they said that subjects ought to ask for peace from the king and not he from them, and if the princes wished for it they must come to Court and ask for it, humiliating themselves before His Majesty, in whom they would meet with nothing but grace and clemency. The ambassador replied that he had made no representations on behalf of the princes, but had simply offered the intervention of his king to settle the difficulties, and if that offer had proved acceptable he would have done his utmost to achieve success. Accordingly as the ambassador makes no further proposals, and they remain fixed in their determination that the princes must come to Court, matters remain in suspense and there is no progress.

In order to conciliate many of those who desire peace and to establish it more firmly against those who do not want it, they have again taken up the question of the marriage of the second princess here with the prince of England, speaking about it to the ambassador, who sent word to his king. This is in order to allay the suspicions which the Huguenots may conceive from the alliance with Spain and to compel them to move more circumspectly in declaring themselves against the king's service, of which they are much afraid, as the Huguenots are negotiating with the princes.

*Bordeaux, the 15 November, 1615.*

*[Italian.]*

Nov. 17.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**93.** RANIER ZEN, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Yesterday a gentleman arrived here from Germany with letters for His Highness from Brandenburg Wirtemberg, the prince of Anhalt, the count of Mansfeld and the margrave of Anspach, who

1615.

seem much put out because of the peace concluded with the Grand Turk. I have not yet learned the particulars of his negotiations with His Highness.

Turin, the 17 November, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
D' spacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**94.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO and ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

On Monday, I, Foscari, took leave of the king, who received me most graciously. I acquainted him with the satisfaction received by your Excellencies from the Ambassador Carleton and with all that you anticipated from Sir Henry Wotton. His Majesty evinced pleasure thereat, and after some conversation I told him that I had already passed five years in this service, seeking to maintain the excellent relations existing between this crown and the Signory. On my return I should not fail to bear witness to His Majesty's love for the republic and to the favours received by me during the whole of the period. That I kissed his hands for his gracious treatment of me, and that I took my leave.

The king replied that he had taken pleasure in what he styled my good services, and was aware of my having used my good offices not only with him but with your Excellencies, that this was the right way to act and characteristic of a good minister. He next desired me, in the warmest terms, to assure your lordships of his affection. He concluded by saying that as it behoved me to return, he prayed God to prosper my departure, and he wished me the greatest possible felicity. After a few other words I bowed and took leave. His Majesty enquired when I was going, and I replied that I merely awaited the convenience of the queen and prince in order to present my successor to them, and to take leave of them. He then said, in that case I must speak to the Secretary for the letters and for what was requisite, whereupon I departed.

After our audience of the king we endeavoured to obtain the like of the queen, expecting it daily, Her Majesty being at the end of a long course of medical treatment undertaken by her for her ailments. Owing however to the bad state of one of her legs she has hitherto been unable to receive us. Yesterday, in consequence of our suit, her chamberlain went again to Her Majesty at Greenwich, and as he will return to-morrow, we trust that audience may be appointed us on an early day, and immediately afterwards we shall present ourselves to the prince.

In the meantime I, Foscari, to gain time, have taken leave of the duke of Lennox, and I continue to bid farewell to several others of the nobility, as I am anxious to return home after an absence of so many years.

The ambassador from the archduke, who had been desirous to take leave long before us, has at length had audience of the king and is in like manner endeavouring to obtain his immediate dismissal from the queen and prince, being the more anxious to get away as the malady of the archduke becomes more alarming, though in the event of his death no important change in Flanders is anticipated, as the infanta is to remain mistress in those territories.

1615.

In lieu of this ambassador, the archdukes will be represented by an agent, who has been residing here upwards of a year, as I have already related, and the subsequent sojourn of the ambassador was induced solely by the negotiations about Cleves, nor for the future will any ambassador from Flanders reside at this court.

London, the 20 November, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

95. GREGORIO BARBARIGO and ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The very day on which we wrote our last, Lord Wotton went to the earl of Somerset, and in the king's name demanded of him both the seals and the lord chamberlain's staff. The earl answered that the seals were there and he consigned them to him and that as for the staff, which he pointed out to him in a corner of the room, he might take it. Lord Wotton rejoined that the order he had received from the king did not purport that he was to take the staff, but that the earl was to give it, as he did. Shortly afterwards the earl of Somerset was removed for examination before four judges, and subsequently to the Tower, where he yet remains. According to report the king has promised his jewels, plate, furniture and money to the queen and his landed property to the prince. A maid (*una damigella*) of the countess of Somerset is said to have been the accomplice of all the crimes committed by her mistress, and to have confessed in private to knowing something about the poisoning of the prince. But before the judges she said not a word about this, and denied many heinous offences. Nevertheless she is condemned to death for those proven against her.\* The countess is on the eve of her delivery, and the enquiry proceeds. The king took his departure on the day before yesterday, apparently much pained at these events, and by the discord prevalent at the court.†

Besides the audience which the French ambassador had last week, he was with His Majesty again the day before yesterday, and that same evening the king received a courier from his ambassador at the French court. What we have elicited hitherto is that he spoke about the proposals and suit urged by the English ambassador in France, and concerning the reply made to him by their Most Christian Majesties, that it is meant to carry the marriages into effect and that there is small inclination to grant any of the concessions demanded on behalf of the malcontent princes. The king evinced much resentment at this reply, speaking very warmly, while on the other hand the French ambassador gave him to understand that when he disposed of the hand of the Princess Elizabeth, France did not interfere, nor would she in the marriage of the prince or in those of any other children who might be born to His Majesty. The courier was the bearer of full details of all that the ambassador has negotiated and of a compendium of what was

\* Mrs. Anne Turner. Her trial is given in Howell's *State Trials*, ii, No. 104.

† The king left London towards Royston on 17 November. Nichols, *Progresses of James I.*, iii., p. 120.

1615.

said to him in reply both by their Majesties and by the ministers conformably with the announcements made here by the French ambassador.

It is understood that Condé has crossed the Loire with his whole army and that the marshal de Boisdapuin has followed him with the troops under his command, but there is no news of any engagement or of anything of greater importance.

The duke of Longueville yet remains with the prince and commands the rear guard, the van being under the duke of Mayenne, while the prince is with the main body. They are said to be marching upon Poitou, a country inhabited for the most part by the Huguenots. It remains to be seen what effect their arrival will produce.

From London, the 20 November, 1615.

[Italian.]

Nov. 20.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

96. GIOVANNI RIZZARDO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

*The Sig. Foscari claims now to have deposited sufficient proofs with Sig. Barbarigo upon the charges brought against Muscorno. He has now decided to depart as soon as he has taken leave of the queen and the prince, and to take the direct route through France and Savoy without stopping. I recognise my duty to fulfil the orders given me by your Excellencies; certain things are happening which concern the dignity and honour of the republic and my zeal for the service compels me to give an account of them. I submit this in the hope that your Excellencies will recognise my goodwill.*

*I have recently heard that the Ambassador Foscari obtained a letter from the king to his ambassador upon the dispute about precedence with the ambassador of the archduke. A copy has reached my hands quite recently, and I enclose it to show its tenor. His Excellency, by his letters, demanded to come after the kings. I have no need to express my opinion, but I leave the matter to those who have knowledge. I know when I was in another place and there was a question of a new title of king assumed by a prince, the republic claimed not to have a place after the kings, but to keep one among the kings. It is sufficient for me to state what has taken place. The king's letter was given about two years ago. It is in the ambassador's possession, and he did not send it before because he hoped to obtain others containing a complete and definite statement upon the affair with the reply from Spain.\* He asked the king to grant this favour at his last audience. His Majesty did not refuse, but replied that the archduke would be dead in a little while, and no further occasion would arise. The Secretary, when the ambassador made a like request to him, replied that he would first speak to His Majesty. He afterwards sent word by Sir [Henry] Wotton that the reply had not come from Spain and they could say no more at the moment, but possibly Wotton would bring the decision with him to the republic. After I had spoken about this with Sig. Foscari in the public*

\* This is probably the letter No. 539, page 276, of the preceding volume.

1615.

*interest, I communicated everything to Sig. Barbarigo, and now do so to your Excellencies.*

*I must further add that the ambassador of Flanders is also about to depart. He had his leave-taking audience of his Majesty a day before the Ambassador Foscari. Both asked for audience, but it is said that Flanders asked first. Whatever may be thought of that it is worthy of note that the ambassador of Flanders was invited and dined with His Majesty at the same table on the day of the audience, in London, and that on the following day the Venetian ambassador was simply received and took leave.*

*Some days ago, moreover, the Spanish ambassador sent his chaplain here to see Sig. Foscari to arrange with him, so he said, about the relations which should exist between the Spanish ambassador and Sig. Barbarigo. The former lets it be understood that he will not treat the latter as an equal. It is true that he has not yet been to call upon him, either before the audience of the king, as all the other ambassadors did, or afterwards, but he only sent his interpreter on a complimentary visit. We shall see whether he will come after the audience of the queen, as it is possible that he may have omitted this office for personal reasons, in order not to be after France in returning visits. Your Excellencies shall be advised of what takes place before our departure.*

*London, the 20th November, 1615.*

*[Italian; deciphered.]*

Nov. 21.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**97. PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*There is no further talk of peace and no one is working for it. Neither the English ambassador nor the nuncio has said anything further. Meanwhile the princes are augmenting their forces. There are loud complaints at Court against the Marshal Boisdauphin, who moves slowly and who so far has done nothing of any account.*

*Bordeaux, the 21st November, 1615.*

*[Italian.]*

Nov. 22.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**98. PIETRO VICO, Venetian Secretary in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*From France it is understood that the Huguenots may finally join the party of the prince of Condé; they have raised troops. The English ambassador told me that they complain of his king, saying that His Majesty foments these dissensions, and a very little would induce him to interpose his authority for an agreement. They fear that if these disturbances continue the duke of Savoy will join the princes and may soon arm again under such a pretext, which would give rise to fresh trouble.*

*Madrid, the 22 November, 1615.*

*[Italian; deciphered.]*

1615.

Nov. 22.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savola.  
Venetian  
Archives.

99. RANIER ZEN, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The gentleman whom I mentioned in my last having arrived here in the name of the Protestant Princes of Germany presented his credentials to His Highness. He has set himself to negotiate upon the league, already proposed by the king of England.\*

The duke of Saxony has not gone yet, but is detained by the duke until the issue of the French negotiations is known.

Turin, the 22 November, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 23.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

100. PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The queen entered this city the day before yesterday; the mass will be celebrated on Wednesday and they will spend the evening together.

Bordeaux, the 23 November, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 27.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

101. To the AMBASSADOR IN ENGLAND.

The Uscocchi are continually becoming more turbulent. After the barbarous affair of the galley Veniera, we harried their nests and lurking places, but we hoped that the princes would provide some remedy by the restitution of the galley and its artillery, as a sign that they did not approve of such proceedings. This has not happened. In reply to our representations promises have been given in writing to remove the Uscocchi, burn their ships and banish them, but these have not been fulfilled in the smallest particular. The commissioners sent have departed without coming to any decision, taking back presents from the Uscocchi. This has increased their boldness. This appeared at Novi, whither the Uscocchi took a part of the artillery and munitions of the galley Veniera, in order to invade our states. One Benvenuto Pettazzo, head of the citizens of Trieste and owner of the district of San Servolo and other towns, admitted the Uscocchi to his places with other villains and has encouraged depredations upon our subjects in Istria. This has been justly resented by our officials and subjects. This man thereupon issued an insulting manifesto against our Proveditore Leze and on the 12th inst. actually passed capital sentence upon him. Our Proveditore could not refrain from reprisals and burned some houses of this Pettazzo in the neighbourhood. Pettazzo at once fomented further plundering, at our places of Popenchio and Caresana, in a manner to show that this arose purely from private spite. After this the Proveditore, hearing that Pettazzo had constructed some saltpits near Muggia in a place undoubtedly

\* Here is come hither one Mons. de la Voye with letters to the Duke of Savoy from the Marquis Anspach and the Count Ernest Mansfelt, wherein they advertise that according to his instance they have moved the Prince of Anhalt and divers other Princes of the Union, for the incorporating him into that body. Wake to Winwood, 17 Nov. 1615, o.s., *State Papers, Foreign, Savoy*.



1615.

under our jurisdiction, went and destroyed them on the 24th inst. On his return he was attacked by superior numbers and defeated after a stout resistance, losing about 120 killed. He took refuge at Capo d'Istria to prepare the defence of the province. We hope that God will favour the just cause and bring to naught their evil designs.

We send this for information, so that you may know what reply to make to the rumours spread abroad, which are contrary to the truth and misrepresent our good intentions.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Savoy, Spain, Milan, Florence, Naples.

Ayes 159.

Noes 1.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 27.  
Senato,  
Secreta,  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

102. GREGORIO BARBARIGO and ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The queen has somewhat recovered and has fixed to-morrow for the audience. With that and the audience of the prince two days later we shall have completed our duties, and I, Foscari, shall set out at once.

Whilst Count Henry of Nassau, with 2,500 horse and 1,800 muskeers, picked men from all the companies, had set out in advance in the direction of Brunswick, Count Frederick of Solmes, general of the Hanse towns, has betaken himself thither to relieve that town. Accordingly the duke, perceiving that his difficulties were likely to be considerably increased, entered into negotiations with the besieged, withdrew and raised the siege. However, he continues to negotiate, in order to arrive at some final settlement which will reduce everything to order in those parts. The doubt lest the king of Denmark, who was greatly interested, as we have already reported, on account of the duke, his nephew, should not be contented with harassing Brunswick only, but should cherish designs against the other coast towns, with whom the Dutch had recently come to a fresh understanding in order to confirm their league with that town, had no little influence in inducing the States to send the succour which they did and to ask for a settlement. In addition to sending Count Henry, the States had commissioned Count John Ernest to follow him with 1,000 Frisian infantry, the better to make sure of the passage. This proved unnecessary, but Count Henry, now that the Brunswick business is nearly settled, has drawn towards Cologne and stopped in the neighbourhood; we even hear that he has received orders to winter in those territories to bring home to the city of Cologne and the Archbishop, by this means, the displeasure which they have caused the States by the destruction of Mulheim.

The other affairs concerning the country of Cleves and the execution of the treaty of Xanten are now broken off more than ever, as the Dutch, after the deliberation of the Provinces, have

1615.

adhered to their original resolve not to consent to the requests to remove the name of the two kings from the composition with the archduke, as by what they say they do not want to change anything or to withdraw, as the Spaniards desire, from the relation which they ought to have to the treaty of Santen. Their ambassador, M. Caron, has returned with this reply to His Majesty. The ambassador of Flanders says that the king wrote to the archduke expressing his satisfaction with His Highness and that he has right on his side. The Dutch ambassador, however, bears witness that His Majesty entirely agrees with what his masters have done, but that at the same time he is unwilling that occasions for dispute should remain, and would be glad to see some better hopes for peace in those parts.

London, the 27 November, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 27.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disposoi,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

103. GREGORIO BARBARIGO and ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The marquis of Bonnivet, contrary to all expectation and very suddenly, has left this Court without taking leave of His Majesty or taking any other steps. There are various rumours about his departure, some saying that he has been withdrawn by the queen's party, others the opposite; but there is no certain information, and this is by no means flattering to the reputation of the princes here.

The individual sent by the king to the assembly at Grenoble<sup>o</sup> returned here yesterday. He interviewed the king's secretary but has not yet been to see His Majesty. He brings no word of any resolution taken by that assembly, after meeting at Nîmes, to assist the princess, but that they are acting very hesitatingly as some of them are not at all inclined to risk such great matters in discussion there, especially as there are some who think that the prince of Condé, except owing to the necessity of his present interests, has no inclination towards their party, and they are greatly afraid that after they have declared themselves the princes may find some more advantageous course of action and they will be exposed to danger and abandoned. We will endeavour to discover further particulars, especially after everything has been made known to His Majesty. The same person, having been in Savoy, says that he left the duke very anxious and doubting as he feared that if the affairs of the princes in France were arranged, the settlement there might lead to fresh troubles for himself. He said that no marriage alliance had ever taken place between princes of such greatness but it had brought forth the most serious troubles and caused the ruin of somebody. Meanwhile they feel sure here that if some settlement is made in the affairs of France the Spaniards are certain to want to take advantage of it in order to advance their affairs.

Four thousand recruits have arrived at Dunkirk upon eight ships of war.†

\* Giovanni Francesco Biondi.

† Part of the fleet of twenty-seven Spanish ships, reported to have left Lisbon in September. *Cal. State Papers, Domestic, 1611-8, p. 324.*

1615.

The Council of War meets much more frequently than usual at Brussels, and all appearances give rise to the suspicion that they are preparing some momentous decision.

The Marquis Spinola is going to Dusseldorf; the States, as we have written before, will not fail to make every provision. The king here never ceases his efforts to secure the preservation of the general peace and to stave off all occasions of trouble both from himself and his friends.

London, the 27 November, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 29.  
Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Lettere  
Re.  
Venetian  
Archives.

104. ANNA, dei gratia Magnæ Britanniae, Franciae et Hiberniae, Regina, Serenissimo Principi, Dei gratia Venetiarum Duci, Salutem et utramque felicitatem.

Reddit nobis Serenitatis Vestrae Literas Vir Nobilis Gregorius Barbarigo, Serenitatis Vestrae Legatus nunc hic residens. Ex iis gratum nobis fuit intelligere amicam Serenitatis Vestrae propensionem erga nos. Quam amice vicissim erga S. V. affectae permaneamur, Quantum nos Serenissimae Reip. debere sentiamur quod benevola affectus sui iudicia non ad nos tantum pervenire sed etiam ad Charissimum fratrem meum, Serenissimum Daniae Regem transmitti voluerit, exponere S. V. poterit Nobilis vir Eques meritissimus Antonius Fuscarini, Cui Legationem renuntiatur Libentissime Literas hasce dedimus, unaque hoc veritabile testimonium perhibere volumus, Eum quamdiu hic fuit, in omnibus Legationis suis partibus obeundis tanta fide tanta prudentia tanta moderatione se gessisse, ut in ea provincia administranda nemo melius de Sereniss. Reip. mereri potuerit, Certe nostro iudicio tam egregiam operam navaverit ut non Laudibus tantum ornandus sed praemii afficiendus videatur. Sed Haec hactenus, Deus Opt. Max. S. V. vestram tueatur et incolumem.

Datae tertio kal. Decembr., 1615.

Serenitati Vestrae addictissima,

ANNA R. [*autograph.*]

Dec. 1.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

105. PIETRO CONTABINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have seen the duke of Nevers, who arrived in Court last week. He told me that the nuncio and the English ambassador were negotiating for peace and asked if I had done anything in the name of your Excellencies. I replied that the republic would not neglect any office which it might believe to be useful for the present emergencies.

I told him that Sig. Gregorio Barbarigo had obtained leave to proceed to his charge in England.

Bordeaux, the 1st December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

1615.

Dec. 1.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**106. PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The celebration of the mass and the blessing of the bridal pair took place on the 24th ult. His Majesty spent the evening with the queen, but has not been with her since, as it was sufficient that the marriage should be consummated to avoid future difficulties. The public entry into this city took place three days ago.

Bordeaux, the 1st December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 1.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**107. PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

There is not enough money here for ordinary requirements, and all the couriers who come this way are stopped, and the king's despatches taken from them. Quite recently the mails of England and Germany, with many others to His Majesty from Paris, were intercepted by the Prince and the letters burned. They are thus in great doubt, as they can neither send nor receive news.

Bordeaux, the 1st December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 1.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**108. RANIER ZEN, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The duke of Saxony has departed, as I wrote that he would.

The English ambassador, by order of his king, has left Paris in great haste to go and find their Majesties and express his desire to intervene in order to arrange a settlement of their troubles. He also has various proposals to make to the queen with this view. Although this is in favour of peace, yet the papal nuncio, on hearing of these proposals of the ambassador, has started off before they have been made, with a show of being in favour of any reasonable accommodation with the princes, so as to entirely exclude from these negotiations the English ambassador, in whom the queen does not seem to repose much confidence in these affairs.

Turin, the 1st December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 3.  
Collegio,  
Lettere.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**109. To the AMBASSADOR IN ENGLAND.**

Notification of the election of the new doge.

The like to Rome, Germany, France, Spain, Savoy, Milan, Naples, Florence, Mantua.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 4.  
Collegio,  
Lettere.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**110. To the KING OF GREAT BRITAIN.**

The doge [Giovanni Bembo] informs his Majesty of his election in place of M. Antonio Memmo, deceased.

1615.

The like to the Pope.

the Emperor.

the King and Queen of France.

the King of Spain.

the King of Poland.

the Duke of Savoy.

the Archdukes Maximilian and Albert.

the Governor of Milan.

the Viceroy of Naples.

the Republic of Genoa.

the Lords of Ragusa.

the States.

Prince Maurice.

the Dukes of Mantua, Modena and Parma.

the Electors of the Empire, ecclesiastical and secular.

the Duke of Lorraine.

[Italian.]

Dec. 4.  
 Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Deliberazioni.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.

## 111. To the AMBASSADOR IN ENGLAND.

Since our communication of the 27th ult. the people of the archduke have constantly given fresh provocations, as they have joined a good number of Croatian horse and foot to the forces under Pettazzo, against whom the Proveditore did nothing more than the natural reprisals we wrote of. They have invaded Istria and burned Osopo, Gabrouizza, Besouizza and Lonchi, showing great barbarity at the last place, sparing nothing whether sacred or profane, and they have committed similar depredations at Marceniglia, territory of Raspo, in the territories of Barbana, San Vincenti and in the district round Pinguente, losing no opportunity of inflicting damage. This was easy, as the province is poor and open on all sides, being greatly exposed to sudden invasions.

Not content with this, they suddenly attacked the territory of Monfalcon, situate beyond the River Lisonzo and surrounded in great part by their states, where they burned seven places and sacked two others without distinction of persons and with the same impiety to churches, and without provocation from the people, who have been friendly with their neighbours. They would have done more but for the protection afforded by the land and fortress of Monfalcon, which stopped their further progress. On this account we have decreed various provision of captains and soldiers, both horse and foot, wherewith to protect our subjects and their property and to restrain this licence so far as we may.

We send you this for information, so that you may be able to reply that these evils originated with others.

We have shown our good faith in this matter, because on being requested by his Imperial Majesty to suspend attacks, with a promise to remedy the root of this evil of the Uscocchi, we contented ourselves by instructing our ambassador at Prague to agree to suspend, upon receiving this promise. But they, without awaiting a reply, have proceeded to hostilities, as mentioned above, and compel us to think of due provision; as we have justice on our side we hope that God will favour our cause.

1615.

The like to the ambassador at the Imperial Court, except the last paragraph.

Ayes 148.

Noes 1.

Neutrals 8.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 4.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra,  
Venetian  
Archives.

**112.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO and ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

According to the arrangement notified by us, we had audience of the queen on Sunday. The son of the earl of Worcester, the master of the horse, came with two very magnificent coaches belonging to Her Majesty to the house of me, Barbarigo, accompanied by the master of the ceremonies and several other cavaliers, with whom and with several other honourable and numerous companies we proceeded to Greenwich, and were introduced to Her Majesty, who, surrounded by an immense number of the leading nobility, of both sexes, was seated under the canopy.

On our arrival she rose and advancing a few steps received us very graciously. I, Foscari, presented the Most Illustrious Barbarigo to her, saying that he had been sent by your Serenity as my successor and to serve her, as I made sure he would perfectly. After these words I, Barbarigo, delivered to her your Serenity's letters, employing the warmest terms I could to express the affection borne by your Excellencies towards her and the whole of her august family, in such form as I deemed most acceptable to her. She received and heard me with all courtesy and affability and chose to read with her own eyes the whole of the Ducal missive which she had at first given into the hands of her secretary, who opened it kneeling. She then replied, saying that she should ever be ready to do your Serenity all service, knowing that England was much beholden to you for the goodwill you bear her, expressions which we reciprocated, saying that one would write and the other report her speech verbally to your Serenity, who would much rejoice thereat. I, Foscari, then added that it remained to me to return thanks for the most gracious favour and protection which she had extended to me during the five years that I had waited on her. In taking leave I asked her to believe that she had no servant whose will was more entirely devoted to her than mine. Thereupon, without allowing me to say more, Her Majesty turned towards me with extreme benignity of countenance, gesture and language, and expressed her wish to see me once again. After I had returned thanks for this fresh favour, we each of us added a few complimentary phrases, which were all graciously listened to and reciprocated. We then took leave. I, Foscari, left a person to learn when it would please Her Majesty to see me, to whom she said, whenever I pleased, and then named today.

On Wednesday we went to the prince, to whom I, Barbarigo, presented myself while I, Foscari, took leave. The first words purported that I was departing but that His Highness might rely on receiving perfect satisfaction from Barbarigo, who was taking my

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place, that I had served him with devotion and on returning to Venice I would report his good will and favour to your lordships. Barbarigo then presented his letters with a few complimentary phrases. The prince replied that he should ever be ready for the entire service of the State as were his parents, that he was much satisfied with the conduct of Foscarini and would always be glad to see Barbarigo. Throughout the interview he gave evident marks of his excellent tendency towards your Serenity. He also asked me, Barbarigo, about my journey and enquired of us whether we had yet received intelligence of the creation of the new doge.\* I, Foscarini, then took leave, presenting the secretary Rizzardi, whom His Highness received graciously, as the king and queen had done at the last audience. I take this opportunity to inform your Serenity of the excellent opinion he leaves of himself at this Court, owing to the good service which he has rendered, to my entire satisfaction.

From London, the 4 December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 4.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**113.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO and ANTONIO FOSCARINI, Venetian Ambassadors in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The ambassador of Brandenburg told us that the States have intelligence in the county of Ravensberg, which is a province of Cleves, and they have directed Count Henry to send forces to those parts and to put garrisons in various strong places there. He admitted that the Spaniards would raise objection to this, but said that the States would justify their action, saying that they were carrying out the treaty of Xanten. That the Elector is greatly dissatisfied at the continued detention of the places partly in the hands of Spain, and partly in those of the States and these things must finally end in war; that the prince, his son, remains with Maurice, and he has orders as soon as he perceives the turn taken by events, to take leave here and return to his master. To do this he has gone to Newmarket to an audience previously arranged by the king for the purpose.

The ambassador of the archduke is earnestly soliciting leave to go as soon as possible and he will assuredly set out one day next week. Thus the places remain in the hands of Spain and of those who possess them, as I, Foscarini, always predicted that they would, notwithstanding the treaty of Xanten and that the general opinion was the other way. With regard to the outcome, it is probable that if the fighting goes on in France matters will continue without any important change, but if peace is made there war will break out in the country of Cleves against the States.

The Most Christian Ambassador told me, Barbarigo, that he had not received letters from France for a month, but from other sources we hear that the king is strengthening his forces. On the other hand Condé has notably augmented his army and continues to swear in soldiers to serve the king under his leadership.

\* Marc Antonio Memmo died on 31 October, 1615. His successor, Giovanni Bembo, was elected on the 2nd December following.

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No fresh news has come from Brunswick since the advices reporting the relief of the town by Count Frederick of Solmes, by introducing 300 cart-loads of provisions and a good number of troops, which caused the siege to slacken. The count had his horse killed under him in an action there and a brother taken prisoner.

The earl of Argyll, the general in Scotland, has not yet returned, although he is understood to be operating successfully there; nevertheless the insurgents are still in considerable numbers and offer a stout resistance. However they must certainly yield, because no help can reach them from anywhere, and all the passes are closed, or at least the principal ones.\*

All is quiet in Ireland and no news of moment comes from that quarter.

The person who came from the assembly of Grenoble in France† went on to the king four days ago and so did the king's secretary. It is said that the French ambassador having written to the marshal of Ancre and the High Chancellor on behalf of the marquis of Bonnivet, the marquis went to Calais, while the reply was expected, without saying a word to the ambassador. The latter on hearing of this sent at once to have him detained in the fortress at Calais, where he remains, awaiting his fate.

London, the 4 December, 1615.

[Italian.]

Dec. 4.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacoi,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

114. GIOVANNI RIZZARDO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

*The ambassador of Flanders, by obtaining audience first for his leave taking, clearly gained an advantage over the Ambassador Foscarini, as his audiences have always come first. In the same way he had his last audience of the queen yesterday, and Sig. Foscarini to-day. This gives rise to the belief that the ambassadors of Flanders and Spain, united by past events, have joined together to procure these advantages, as in this particular nothing has been done without the Spanish ambassador's co-operation, as has been reported. As the ambassador of Flanders is not to have a successor, it is simply a question of establishing a precedent which may serve their interests upon other occasions. Sig. Foscarini is endeavouring to obtain a letter from the king deciding upon the place to be taken by the ambassadors of the republic and has asked for this through Sir [Henry] Wotton, who as a friend of His Majesty's secretary might facilitate the affair with him. However he has not been able to obtain anything. Since the representations made by me about the prejudice done to the republic if they spoke of coming after the kings, of which I wrote in my last, His Excellency has preferred no further requests. This is the present state of that affair, which I have thought it right to report.*

\* The earl of Argyll himself gave an account of the reduction of the Macdonalds of Kintyre before the Privy Council of Scotland on 24 November, 1615. *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, vol. x, pp. 757 et seqq.

† Biondi.



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*Biondi has returned from his mission and he only stopped here two days, going afterwards to the king. I did not fail, in that time, to ask him to keep his promise to me about the book; but I found him much moved and he spoke very angrily about it. He said he was advised that scattered reports at Venice credited him with being the author of this book, and that the king's secretary himself asserted this, warning him to change his mind if he had any idea of going with the Ambassador Wotton, as he had said he intended to. For this reason he said that he wished to justify himself, as he had never been guilty of such an act, calling it a disgrace. He said he would willingly come to Venice, if necessary, to disculpate himself. I simply report his words to your Excellencies. He said that he had sat down to write and had actually written some pages against the Ambassador Foscari to avenge himself for some slights, but that being in a better frame of mind he recognised his mistake, gave it up and did no more. I could get nothing further out of him.*

*London, the 4th December, 1615.*

*[Italian; deciphered.]*

Dec. 5.  
Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Lettere  
Re.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**115.** CAROLUS, Magnæ Britanniae Princeps, Eboraci, Cornubiæ et Albaniae Dux, Salutem etc.

Cum prænobilis Eques, Antonius Foscarius, Egregie apud Serenissimum parentem nostrum legatione defunctus ad Ser. V. reditum adornaret, ac sese nostra benevolentia et affectu dignissimum probavit; Eum hasce sinceri erga S.V. amoris nostre indices perferre volumus, ut qui viva voce profitentem me, quanti ipsam et inclitam Venetam Remp. faciam, sepius audierit. Is ut nobis suo merito charissimus semper fuit, sic ipsius loco a vobis suffectum nobilissimum virum, Gregorium Barbaricum in Eundem benevolentiae et affectus nostri locum suffecturos nos spondemus.

Dat. ad D. Jacobi 25 Novemb. 1615.

CAROLUS P. [autograph.]

A tergo: Serenissimo Principi ac Dominio, Dei Gratiae Venetiarum Duci, amico nostro charissimo.

Dec. 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**116.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

On coming out of the gallery, although it was four o'clock at night, and exceedingly cold, His Highness dismissed those who were following him, and with great melancholy asked whether the exchange of the royal spouses had taken place. When told that the Ambassador Contarini reported this to be the case, he said:

*Signori Ambassadors, we have lost the kingdom of France, as Condé will either be destroyed or disarmed by promises. We shall soon lose England, as the marriage in negotiation between the second French princess and the prince there may easily take place, and thus these three crowns will shortly be united, while we shall be left alone and abandoned, and there will be no bridle to the vast ambition which aims at rendering all subject to it. I wonder that the most serene*

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*republic neither does nor says anything. Alone I can do little, but united we might accomplish a great deal, so that these alliances would bring no harm and our affairs would remain at peace. If they would agree to a purely defensive league, I would at once write to concur. He asked us to send to Venice a sheet containing some reasons out of many others in favour of such an alliance.*

Turin, the 8th December, 1615.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Dec. 9.  
Collegio.  
Secreta.  
Letters  
Re.  
Venetian  
Archives.

117. JACOBUS Dei gratia etc. Domino Marco Antonio Memo, Venetæ Reipub. Duci, amico nostro charissimo, Salutem.

Serenissime Princeps. Cum illustrissimus vir Antonius Foscarenus, Legatus vester apud nos quinque annorum spatio commoratus, nunc in Patriam mandato vestro sit redditurus, ipsum sine aliquo nostræ in eum voluntatis idque illustri et egregio testimonio discedere noluimus: Is provinciam suæ curæ et fidei commissam, summa cum laude, prudentia et dignitate administravit, nobis cumulate satisfecit, et id apud vos litteris nostris testatum eo nobis jucundius fuit, quod in hujus temporis curriculo, nihil quidem prætermisit, quod ad benevolentiam inter nos. Rempub. vestram conservendam, augendam et confirmandam pertinere posset. Hanc animi nostri significationem vobis gratam esse cupimus, virum dignum diligimus, et hac de causa sui honoris et dignitatis amplitudinem desideramus; Qui enim in negotiis maximis tractandis Republicæ vestræ fruitum afferre, mandatæ perficere, et nobis gratum facere curavit, cum suo munere optime functum esse dicere possumus. Ipsum de nostra in Rempub. vestram benevolentia et existimationem nonnulla, pro sua probitate relaturum esse confidimus. Nosque Serenitatis Vestræ affirmamus semper cum se obtulerit occasio ad Repub. vestræ commoda paratissimos esse.

Datum ex aula nostra apud Newmarket 29<sup>o</sup> die Novembris, 1615.

JACOBUS R. [*autograph.*]

A tergo: Serenissimo Principi ac Domino Marco Antonio Memmo, Venetæ Reipublicæ Duci, amico nostro charissimo.

Dec. 9.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Venetian  
Archives.

118. GIOVANNI RIZZARDO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

*The Spanish ambassador has not yet been to call upon Sig. Barbarigo, and nothing more has passed between them than what I reported on the 20th ult. about sending his interpreter. His Excellency replied to this by sending his steward. Thus the two ambassadors remain without visiting each other. There is no other reason except the possible pretension of Spain not to treat him as an equal but to demand a superiority of title. On the other hand the Resident of Florence has called upon Sig. Barbarigo and a*

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*good understanding exists between them. I report this as in duty bound. I have nothing further to add except that we are expecting to leave every day.*

*London, the 9th December, 1615.*

*[Italian ; deciphered.]*

Dec. 14.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

119. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

After the Ambassador Foscarini had taken leave of the queen, he was informed that the king wished to see him again before his departure and would not consider him as completely dismissed. His lordship accordingly betook himself to Newmarket the day before yesterday to receive His Majesty's favour and make his last bow.

The ambassador having at length taken formal leave of their Majesties, left this city on Tuesday on his way to the sea.

The progress of the charges against and the multiplication of the accomplices of the Earl of Somerset increase daily. The Lieutenant of the Tower was executed recently and on Tuesday a distiller who made the poison suffered.\* Owing to the confessions of these it is now considered certain that the Earl of Somerset and his wife will suffer the extreme penalty. They would proceed towards this with all speed if he had not aggravated his offence by other crimes. He has taken bribes from the ambassador of Spain, and in this also his chain of accomplices appear. Of these, up to the present, the Vice-Admiral has been arrested,† and they have sent to Spain to fetch the ambassador resident with his Catholic Majesty. When he was here last year he told the king that all his most intimate secrets were regularly revealed to the king of Spain. It seemed even then that he meant to designate the Earl of Somerset, but at that time, owing to his greatness, it was not easy to tax him with crime (*essendo qui disse al Re che erano rivelati puntualmente al re di Spagna tutti i più reconditi secreta della Maestà Sua parendo che volesse accennar fin all' hora di questo Conte di Somerset al quale tuttavia per la grandezza sua, non era così facile l'attribuir alcun delitto*).‡ These events are expected to cause grave prejudice to the affairs of Spain at this Court, their most powerful supporters falling at one and the same time, and their methods having made them most hateful to the others.

The French ambassador has received full information from his Most Christian Majesty from Bordeaux about the completion of the marriage, and that His Majesty will stay for some days in that town, in order, by means of his authority in that district, to reduce to obedience those who are alienated. For this reason he gave

\* James Franklin.

† Sir William Monson was the admiral, and he was arrested for complicity in Overbury's murder, but Barbarigo is probably confounding him with his brother, Sir Thomas Monson, master of the armoury at the Tower, who was accused by Helwys, and whose arrest caused a much greater sensation.

‡ Gardiner says 'Somerset appears to have kept himself clear.' *Hist. of England*, ii, p. 217.

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a ceremonial banquet to the Spanish ambassador and to the ambassador of Flanders before the latter left, and I hear that the Spanish ambassador is making preparations for various festivities when he receives the news that the marriages have taken place in Spain also. In this way these ministers do what they can to advance the reputation of their affairs. They do not deny, however, that the army of the princes continues to augment daily, but they say that very extensive levies are being made by His Majesty. Here they are awaiting results with the closest attention. It seems that the Prince of Condé having passed the Loire has increased his reputation, even although the marriages have taken place. Though it is impossible to prevent them yet they continue their demands for the reform of the Government, the avenging of the late King's death and a revision of the money squandered to the present time.

M. de Montbarot has arrived in the name of the Princes, and has gone to the Court. It is not yet known what he discussed with His Majesty. Anticipations are increasing here about the line of action to be followed by the Huguenots. As several of their principal partisans have declared for the Princes many believe that the whole body may take a decisive step.

The ambassador of Berne is here. He does not seem to attach any importance to the opposition offered by the French with his masters, but says that he has had letters informing him of what M. de la Castiglia is doing against him and what will be said to him in reply.

London, the 14 December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 14.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

120. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Count Henry of Nassau, in conformity with the intentions and instructions of the States, has entered the county of Ravensberg and was received there without any difficulty; because after he had withdrawn the thirty-two companies of horse and the infantry which he had with him in the bishopric of Minden (*Membden*) held by the duke of Luneburg as administrator, and situate between the states of the duke of Brunswick and this same county of Ravensberg, the Prince of Brandenburg, sent at the same time to treat with the Governors and to appoint a special individual to induce them to ask for some garrison from the States, as if they remained unguarded the Spaniards might easily come down upon them. They were afterwards more easily persuaded to receive him when they heard that Count Henry was so strong and near at hand and that he could force them to. The duke of Brunswick being apprised of the proximity of these forces of the States to his dominions, sent to ask Count Henry not to do them any harm. To this he received no reply except that he was general of those troops and he had definite orders and had to execute the decision of the ambassadors of his masters, who had met at Brunswick to arrange a settlement. Besides this affair the ambassadors have very full commissions for negotiating a league with the Hanse towns, as I hear; they have already arranged one with Hamburg and they are expected to do the same with Embden, Bremen, Lunenburg and Magdeburg, who

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have sent their deputies to treat. The duke of Luneburg also was to send his ambassadors for the 25th ult. to Brunswick to negotiate a league for himself.

The letter written by the Prince of Brandenburg upon the departure of his ambassador from here simply states that he is recalling him in order to converse with him about passing events. The ambassador took the letter to the king and obtained licence from His Majesty to depart. The king spoke to him at this audience about the reply sent to him by the States, which was reported to your Serenity in the last dispatches; and hinted that his prince concurred in the same opinion. The ambassador replied that he had received no commissions upon these particulars, but that he really did not see any reason why they should at present enter into any other agreement than the treaty of Santen. The king answered that the States should agree to promise absolutely, as the Archduke desired, not to return to the county of Cleves unless it were openly invaded, and he on his side would draw up a document that they might enter whenever they wished if the treaty of Santen was not kept; although the ambassador objected that such a promise was of no use because of secret dispensations, His Majesty replied that it could be made in good faith and that if the affairs of France were settled when the king returned to Paris, he would instruct his ambassador to treat with his Most Christian Majesty, so that it might be carried out in concert. For the rest he promised every assistance to His Electoral Highness, so that his just interests should not suffer prejudice anywhere.

London, the 14 December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 15.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**121.** PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

They are anxiously awaiting the report of the duke of Nevers upon the results of his negotiations with the Princes. Meanwhile the English ambassador has returned to his offers, in the name of his king, to intervene for an accommodation. He has also negotiated with the ministers, pointing out to them that his master is interested in the peace of this kingdom and will always use his influence to maintain and increase the authority of its ruler. He showed them at the same time that this was not a matter of religion and they might have confidence in his negotiations. He also has left, for this time. He brings nothing more than what was laid upon Nevers, who is to negotiate for a settlement upon the same general grounds.

Bordeaux, the 15 December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 16.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Zante.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**122.** ALMORO BARBARO, Proveditore of Zante, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Reports about pirates at Tunis in Barbary. Encloses account brought by an English ship named Desire. Will inform Captain of the great galleys.

Zante, the 16th December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

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1615.

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

## 123. MEMORANDUM.

Interrogation of Navil Barfis, notary and merchant of the English ship Desire. Interrogated by Tomaso Sparlin, interpreter, as he did not know Italian. Said he had come from England and reached Naples in twenty-four days, when they unloaded their cargo of sardines, fish, cloth and iron. They remained at Naples twenty-eight days and then proceeded to Tunis, where they stayed sixteen days, leaving three bales of cloth there. They then came on here in six days. Asked if he had other merchandise on board, he replied 40 bales between Carisee and London and one bale of Conigli and nothing more. The places visited were healthy. Asked what news he brought from those places he said: at Tunis there were twenty-six bertonas, mostly large, and ten of them were preparing to go to the Gulf of Venice. Asked if there were other bertonas in those parts, he said there were about a hundred and twenty between Algiers, Tunis, Bizerta and other places of Barbary. Asked if they had taken any merchant ships, he said during the time he was there they had taken six ships, partly French, partly English. Asked how many were in the ship and if they were in health, he replied: Praise God, we are all healthy and number thirty-five.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 18.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

## 124. TO THE AMBASSADOR IN ENGLAND.

We have to notify continued provocation and hostility in the matter of the Uscocchi, committed by the people of the archduke, especially in Istria. After the destruction we wrote about they burned other places at Rovigno under Pinquente and in the jurisdictions of Barbana and San Vincenti, with great barbarity and cruelty. They also attacked unsuccessfully a walled place called the Castelli and land of San Vincenti, where they were repulsed with some loss. In view of all this we are increasing our forces, both horse and foot, in Istria and in Friuli, because as a free power we cannot submit to such proceedings.

We have to inform you that by what the Imperial ministers state and bring to the knowledge of the pope and others, that they cast doubts upon the promise given to remove the Uscocchi from Segna and that coast, letting it be understood that the promise only referred to the adventurers and bandits but not to those who have goods and families at Segna, who live quietly, since to remove these, they say, would be to strip those places of inhabitants and to punish the innocent and it would cost a great deal; so they assert that they have never agreed to this. This exception, indeed, which has nothing to do with the matter, is a thing which we have never pretended or asked for, we have only spoken of the adventurers and robbers who commit excesses notorious to every one. The introduction of such a distinction is merely a cloak to cover the others and to maintain these people for the destruction of our commerce and subjects and to keep us in a state of constant disquiet. If they say that Imperial commissioners have gone several times to provide a remedy, we admit it, but it has only been to punish two or three wretches possibly guilty of other excesses. They have not

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punished the chiefs, but have even rewarded them and encouraged their evil doing. This shows the worth of their pretext.

We send all this for information to make use of as you see fit.

The like to the Imperial Court, France, Savoy, Spain, Naples, Milan, Florence.

Ayes 165.

Noes 1.

Neutral 5.

[Italian.]

Dec. 18.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra,  
Venetian  
Archives.

125. GIOVANNI RIZZARDO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

*But for a slight catarrh of the ambassador we should have already set out on our journey. A report has got about here that His Excellency will be called to account on his return to Venice for his actions during the time of this embassy. There are various discussions and opinions upon this, and men argue according to what takes place. The ambassador has received from the queen a present of a diamond in a ring of the value of about 600 crowns and from the king gilt vessels of 1,000ozs. This seemed small to him, as he expected a great deal more. He says that they usually give at least the double here; but they say that it is the ordinary thing and if more has been given to the others, it has been by extraordinary favour of His Majesty. All the secretaries who have been here have received a present from the king at their departure, some of 300, some of 400 and some of 600 crowns, a compensation for expenses, which are very great here. I know that I have been as well received and as honourably treated by His Majesty as any of the others, if not more so, but I have not experienced the good fortune to be favoured with any present. I understand that when some curious person asked the reason they replied that the present received by Muscorno must suffice. But I have heard from this man and from others that if my ambassador had performed the usual offices, I should not have remained without. At this I said that if I had never asked the prince whom I serve for honour's sake alone, I should be still less inclined to ask of others. I did not think it good to ask if they were really presents or donations, apparently they had changed their name and nature and I was not here to ask for presents but to serve my chief. Some here say that this has been done on purpose to discredit Sig. Foscarini and to favour Muscorno in this state of affairs, showing that those who were not liked by the ambassador received presents and one who has served to his satisfaction has not had anything. Others assert, although I do not believe it, that it is the work of the ambassador himself to make me like himself. They declare that a pile of 100l., that is 400 crowns, was prepared. This came from the lips of Sir [Lewis] Lewknor (Lucnor), master of the ceremonies. He argued from the example of the ambassador of Flanders, who had the advantage in other things, but who would have been inferior in the matter of the present if what his Secretary received was not reckoned, as the ambassador received about 700 ounces, while the Secretary's pile amounted to about 300, the total coming to about the same. All this is for the information of your Excellencies. For my own part it is enough for me that I am charged with no fault. I am at last at the*

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*end of my faithful service in England, whence these will be my last letters. If what I have done has earned the favour of my masters, I shall have spent my time well and I shall enjoy the memory of my past perils and trials. My fortune has suffered because my affairs were left in confusion at my hasty departure from Venice. I am now returning in the depth of winter to incur further perils. I beg your Excellencies to favour me, not as a faithful servant for twenty-seven years, but with the generosity and magnificence which is customary in a great prince, who renders help when he knows it is needed. I ask your protection for my house and children, and I pray that God will bring me safely back to continue my service.*

*London, the 18th December, 1615.*

*[Italian ; deciphered.]*

Dec. 21.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**126.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

His Highness caught a severe chill, which has kept him in bed, but the day before yesterday he sent for me and spoke so weightily that I remained confounded at his vigorous personality.

He spoke of the French King's journey to Paris, and said that Lesdiguières would serve the King, but would not allow Condé to fall; he will not be deceived by the promises made to him. In all this there were two points for him, if he had to allow the Spaniards to pass, he could not refuse, as he was disarmed, but, on the other hand, with such forces on the confines of Dauphiné, he should be at the discretion of an army commanded by his enemies. If things go well with Condé, he may be half a king, if not a great king.

The marriage of the second daughter with England is being negotiated vigorously. I am afraid that it will take place, as they are now negotiating very much to the advantage of that king. They tell me that they will give the third daughter, who is only six years old.

In these disturbances of France the king of England has proved himself a prince who loves peace and quiet, slow to make up his mind and always fearful of some mischance, and he has lost a great opportunity both for himself and for me (*il re d'Inghilterra si è dichiarato in questi travagli della Francia Principe che ama il negotio per la pace et per la quiete, tardo a risolversi et dubbioso sempre d'ogni mal avvenimento, et ha perso gran occasione et per lui et per me*). He spoke about the troubles of the Venetians with the Austrians, and said he had thought about a diversion in their own country. It had been discussed by some of the United Princes and they had sent money secretly to the Count of Mansfield, their colonel; he could do a great deal with only a few men.

It would not be a bad thing to speak to the king of England, as he is the head and if he wishes to strike this is the time.

*Turin, the 21 December, 1615.*

*[Italian.]*



1615.

Dec. 25.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives

**127. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

On the return of the Ambassador Foscarini from his audience of the king at Newmarket, he was seized with a violent cold on his chest, accompanied with great difficulty of breathing, but as the sickness ultimately took a favourable turn, he was enabled to leave this city last Tuesday on his way home, after having served your Serenity in these parts for so many years. At the final audience the king received him with great honour and very ample demonstrations of affection. Although it did not behove His Majesty to knight him, as he had already been dubbed in France, yet the king, besides choosing to see him again, gave him, as an additional favour, one of the lions of England to quarter on his escutcheon, accompanying this grant and everything else with the fullest testimony of the great esteem in which he holds the ambassador of the State, and the individual worth and merit of Foscarini.

After he had taken leave of the queen, on which occasion also he was treated with more than ordinary marks of favour and esteem, her Majesty presented him with a very fine diamond, which was taken to him by her secretary, to whom, and to many others, his lordship made very liberal acknowledgment. He leaves this court, and, above all, the king, with great repute, on account especially of the zeal with which he treated the public affairs and ever sought the preservation and increase of a perfect understanding between His Majesty and your Excellencies, concerning which matters, and precisely since the departure of my colleague, the king has expressed to me his extreme satisfaction, bestowing vast praise upon his lordship. He also received several pieces of gilt plate from His Majesty, for the usual present of infinitely greater value than what the ambassador from Flanders had, though very inferior to the gift which it had been customary to make to your ambassadors who preceded him, for in consequence of the excess to which the royal expenditure had arrived, persons have been appointed by consent of the king and according to a decree in council, for its modification, and a reform has been already effected in many branches, especially with regard to the presents of the ambassadors, which are reduced to one-half of what they were before, and, in conformity, it is said, with what was customary here before His Majesty came to the throne. The same method has been observed with the ambassadors from France, from Flanders and from your Serenity, who left since this new regulation, and all the others will be dealt with hereafter in like manner.

As your Excellencies have decided that I shall remain in this important charge after two years of laborious service I will spare no expense or diligence in fulfilling your commands, and I ask you to remember how my property has been diminished in the public service, and to grant me what is not only useful but necessary for the public service.

Sir [Dudley] Carleton, late ambassador to your Excellencies, reached London a few days ago; but as he did not choose to see anyone before he had paid his respects to the king, as he did at Newmarket, I could not visit him until after his return. I then

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assured him of the goodwill borne him by your Serenity, telling him of the order received and already executed by the Most Illustrious Foscarini, to acquaint His Majesty with the entire satisfaction which he had given in Venice. He answered in the most complimentary and friendly terms possible and showed himself so heartily devoted and obliged to your Excellencies that I know not how to do sufficient justice to his language. He told me that he had given a very circumstantial account to the king of Venetian affairs and especially of the esteem and love borne to His Majesty by your Excellencies, on which topic it behoved him to dwell much, not only because he assuredly had a great deal to say thereon, but also because the king listened to this topic with marks of such extreme satisfaction that it was necessary for him to expatiate the more upon the subject. To this I did not fail to make a suitable reply. On reporting his late embassy Sir Dudley received his first instructions for his future mission, the king having told him to be ready to go to Holland at the very beginning of the New Year.

It is possible that Sir [Henry] Wotton will allow the extreme rigour of this season to pass ere he sets out on his way to your Excellencies, but he told me that he must await news of the election of the new doge in order to have his credentials made out.\*

I have received your Excellencies' letter of the 27th ult. about the Uscochi and other archducal subjects bordering upon Istria, and the audacious proclamation against the Proveditore. I will make such use of this as I think best for the public service; and I have considerable hopes of success in this court, as the king in particular is very unfriendly towards the Emperor and does not even refrain upon occasion to refer to him in the most injurious terms because on his election as Emperor he made fair promises to His Majesty, especially in the matter of Cleves, in favour of the Elector Palatine and the Elector of Brandenburg, and he has since acted in quite another fashion.

London, the 25 December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 25.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra  
Venetian  
Archives.

**128.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

On Monday a courier reached the ambassador of Savoy with orders from His Highness to report to His Majesty the coming of Don Pedro of Toledo to Italy, with signs of quite other intentions than disarming and carrying out the treaty with His Highness by means of His Majesty and the other princes whose ambassadors took part in the late negotiations. He has toyed with the disarming and only allows useless men to leave, to weed out his companies. That 4,000 fresh Spaniards are expected in Italy, and notwithstanding that the relation of Claudio Marini was made most fully that the duke had completely fulfilled his obligations under the treaty, and had even dismissed the French with public proclamations, paying their travelling expenses so that their departure might be

\* Giovanni Bembo had been elected to succeed Marc Antonio Memmo as doge on Dec. 2nd.

1615.

the more certain, yet Don Pedro is now trying to send back the Savoyards again to the other side of the mountains. That the intention of the Spaniards appears to be to fulfil nothing which they have promised unless they are forced to do so, but to remain masters of the entire state of His Highness by disarming every defence while they remain armed; that within six weeks the term of six months expired that they were not to ask for a passage through his state, after which they intended to do so. It is thought they will prefer similar demands, backed by force, to pass not only into France, Flanders, or wherever they wish and wherever it may suit their interests, but to devastate, pillage and do what they please with his country. His Highness will do his utmost to prevent this eventuality, but with his forces alone or with his much vexed state he cannot confront the power of the king of Spain, and he must depend for his safety upon the authority of those princes who promised the execution of the treaty with Spain, and from His Majesty in particular.

The same day the ambassador went with these instructions to the Secretary Winwood, who was in London, intending to proceed immediately to His Majesty. But the Secretary advised him not to go before Monday next to Theobalds, which will be more convenient for the king and better for the affair, as for a proper deliberation upon the matter His Majesty would have to consult the secretary. Meanwhile his waiting thus would not delay the affair, the secretary would have all the necessary documents prepared and submit them to him, so that no time might be lost in satisfying the wishes of the king and the desire of His Highness.

Some days ago His Majesty received letters from his ambassador in Spain which gave him grounds for fearing such an eventuality in Italy, especially as there was no inclination at the court there to restore to the duke of Savoy the places occupied. The courier who has come from Piedmont reports that he found the whole of France in an extraordinary state of confusion, and had fallen in with the Marquis of Bonnivet, who was taken to Paris under a strong guard. It was expected that owing to the letters of the French ambassador here and by his other declarations he would be pardoned by the king, nevertheless there is a fear that his acts may bring him to harm, as in the citadel of Calais, where he was detained, though with a considerable amount of freedom, he had plotted to assassinate the Governor and restore the place to the devotion of the princes, and he had bribed various people with this intention and had introduced as many as twenty of his dependents, so that the place might be taken.

I know from a person who had it from the Prince of Condé's own lips, that he thought the Governor of Calais was well inclined to his party; I do not know what gave rise to this belief or to these events. M. de Montbarot is here to stay and negotiate in matters between His Majesty and the Princes. Accordingly upon the reason of his coming the French ambassador began to treat secretly for the departure of Bonnivet, suggesting to him that the Princes, for whom he had done so much, would take the negotiations at the court out of his hands, owing to his lack of ability; this had been the fate of M. de Boislorée, who is also their minister although of

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lower rank. All this is true, but I would not venture to affirm to your Excellencies whether the Marquis of Bonnivet had or had not the intention of separating himself from the Princes.

Some definite issue in the affairs of France is daily expected here, as they know that active proceedings are on foot for an agreement and that forces are being increased on both sides. The ambassador of this king has instructions to negotiate an agreement providing for some satisfaction to the Princes, and he is doing this. The French ambassador continues to assert that his master means to be obeyed, and if the Princes will submit themselves to his Most Christian Majesty, he will treat them with graciousness and clemency, but he will not allow it to be said that the king is going out of his way to meet them, and if they do not submit, he will punish them severely. On the other hand it is understood that the Princes are constant in their determination to prevent the king from returning to Paris and they have very strong forces.

London, the 25 December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 25.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

129. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

After Count Henry of Nassau had occupied the county of Ravensberg in the name of the Marquis of Brandenburg, he greatly improved the defences of four places which are in that country in addition to two towns. In addition to the cavalry the States sent there a large reinforcement of infantry. Notwithstanding the communications which took place between him and the duke of Brunswick, by an understanding with the Dutch ambassadors he returned from the county of Ravensberg by way of the county of Minden (*Mendem*). As the country is somewhat narrow and barren, so that his cavalry suffered greatly for lack of forage, he pressed on into the territory of the duke of Brunswick, who, seeing that he could not do otherwise, invited him to stay in his country, and assured him of his esteem and affection for the States as being so earnestly engaged for the general quiet. It is hoped that this treatment of the duke will lead him more quickly to ask to be included in the agreement which is being negotiated. If this happens, and it is considered certain, the duke of Brunswick himself encourages the belief that he also wishes to be allied with the States, as do also the duke of Luneburg and the Hanse towns.

An ambassador has been sent to the Hague by the city of Cologne to offer excuses and justification for the destruction of the Mulheim. His Majesty in speaking of this to the ambassador of Brandenburg charged him to advise the States in his name to detain the merchandise of the people of Cologne which they may have, in order to indemnify themselves for the damage received in their property from those of Mulheim.

The Archduke Maximilian has arrived in Flanders from Innsbruck. He was met at Louvain by the Archduke Albert, his brother, and at Brussels by the Infanta, with great preparations. He is to proceed to Antwerp and afterwards to Ghent, Bruges, and some other parts of Flanders. He does not conceal that the cause of this visit

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is to negotiate upon the succession to the patrimonial estates of the house of Austria, but it is considered certain that it is also more especially upon the election of a King of the Romans, as requiring more discussion. The eyes of all are turned upon this journey, not only of all Germany but all the Powers, as it is known that the Spaniards cherish the design of giving the empire to one of the sons of the Catholic king. After the completion of his negotiations with the Archduke Albert, the Archduke Maximilian is immediately to go to the Emperor. This journey greatly increases the suspicions of the States, who see the Spaniards daily arranging new projects without thinking of executing the treaty of Xanten. They do not like this state of affairs and would rather have open war than a peace so treacherous and uncertain for them. The king is equally suspicious of the greatness of Spain and loves peace. I know on good authority that His Majesty is persuaded to act with greater resolution with regard to the Spaniards and not allow them ever to postpone the execution of what has been promised. In this connection *he mentioned his present scarcity of money. He has a vast quantity of debts and has hitherto encountered many difficulties in receiving any assistance from the kingdom. This difficulty arises chiefly from the manner in which the money is lavishly spent by His Majesty upon unnecessary things and in enriching persons who do not deserve such gifts and his favourites.* The Council, on this account, has issued orders for the convoking of Parliament in which they state the intentions of His Majesty to satisfy the wishes of the Lower House.\* This is, doubtless, in order that he may obtain all that he wants by the payment of his debts and other commodity of money. *If he wishes to use it for things useful to the kingdom and honourable to the crown, he will never be in want of it (che quando voglia impiegarlo in cose utili al Regno et di riputatione alla corona, non sia per haverne mancamento mai).*

London, the 25 December, 1615.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Dec. 26.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

### 130. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

The hostilities with the archduke continue in Istria, Dalmatia and Friuli, of which we wrote recently ; they even increase, it being understood that they propose to cross the Lisonzo and commit fresh depredations in Friuli such as they have committed in Istria, where they have robbed and burned and destroyed the churches. Wherefore our representatives are collecting their forces and increasing them daily, occupying some places in the archiducal territory on the banks of the River Lisonzo, to wit : Medea, Sagra, Cervignan, Meriana, Cormons, Porpetto and other open places, but without employing any violence or inflicting injury on the inhabitants. They have acted with great discretion, very different from the behaviour of the people of the archduke, who

\* On Nov. 27 o.s. the Council asked the king to appoint a day on which they might meet to discuss the question of summoning a Parliament. *Cal. State Papers, Domestic, 1611-8, p. 333.* See also proposal concerning the book of rates, which was expected to 'ease those who make the clamour in parliament.' *Ibid. p. 346.*

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have inflicted great damage upon all Istria. We are providing all necessary remedies.

We send this for information to make use of when occasion serves, and to proclaim the truth.

The like to Rome, Spain, Florence, Milan, Naples, Mantua, France and Savoy.

Ayes 157.

Noes 2.

Neutrals 10.

[Italian.]

Dec. 26.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**131.** GIOVANNI RIZZARDO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

*I did not intend to trouble your Excellencies with any more letters, but I thought you would not be displeased to have some particulars, and so I decided to send these. We left London on the 22nd inst. The journey will be through France and Savoy and thence by the Po towards Chioza, if our plans are not changed. Sig. Foscarini left without taking with him a copy of the depositions on his defence made up to the present by Sig. Barbarigo against Muscornio. Sig. Barbarigo will certainly send word to your Excellencies, but as I cannot tell what will happen I have thought proper to inform you.*

*Before his departure Sig. Foscarini went to see the other ambassadors, who all returned his calls. He left Spain to the last because he has never been to see the Ambassador Barbarigo, and because the ambassador of Flanders never came to take leave of his colleague of Venice, as he did of the others before he left. At the very last Sig. Foscarini decided to send his chaplain to the Spanish ambassador to say that he had not been able to see him owing to his indisposition, and as the shortness of the time might not admit of a return visit, he wished to know what he should do. The reply was very courteous, that there would be no difficulty, he would not have failed to come, and he wondered there had been any doubt about it, and so on. Accordingly Sig. Foscarini went and passed the due office. Afterwards, whether Spain had taken offence or in order to gain an advantage he gave it to be understood that he would have returned the visit, but he did not mean to treat as between equals, although out of compliment to Sig. Foscarini he had spoken in the third person without a title. The ambassador replied that he proposed to treat as he always had done, if he had been called Excellency he would have replied with Excellency, if Most Illustrious, with Most Illustrious. The Spanish ambassador ultimately stated clearly that he never meant to treat him as an equal, it was not in accordance with the king's instructions, which he could not contravene; and so the visit was not returned. All this may seem of slight importance, but I thought it right to represent it to your Excellencies in execution of my orders, as it concerns the dignity of the republic. It shows that Spain is pushing, but I have also observed that France rarely says Excellency, though he claims it for himself. If we lose this by degrees it will be difficult to recover it. My zeal alone leads me to make these remarks.*

*From Dover, the 26th December, 1615.*

*[Italian; deciphered.]*

1615.  
Dec. 27.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

• 132. PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the  
DOGE and SENATE.

Their Majesties are at Aubeterre (*Obetere*), where they spent Christmas. They are to leave for Poitou tomorrow. The duke of Nevers and the English ambassador have arrived in court, and although almost universal report got about that peace would shortly be obtained, there are no certain grounds. It is only known that the Prince replied that he was most anxious for it and expressed his submission to their Majesties, to whom he has sent the Baron Thianges to express the same. It is thought that they have consented to listen to his proposals.

Angoulême (*Angolen*), the 27th December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 27.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

133. PIETRO VICO, Venetian Secretary in Spain, to the DOGE  
and SENATE.

*I have again seen the Secretary Arostigli about the pirates [from Naples]. He told me that they were advised that the Duke of Savoy would never disarm. He was a hotheaded prince and had no other aim but to make trouble, and he has endeavoured to set France and Spain, England and Venice by the ears. His schemes to kindle a conflagration extend to Constantinople, but they hope his evil designs will have no effect. No one can trust him, as when he was negotiating an alliance with one prince, he was scheming to betray him.*

Madrid, the 27 December, 1615.

[*Italian ; deciphered.*]

Dec. 28.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

134. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the  
DOGE and SENATE.

On the evening of the feast of St. Stephen\* the duke sent for me and told me that Marini had arrived from Milan and reported his dealings with Don Pedro for the carrying out of the treaty. He wished him to make his statement in the presence of the agent of Great Britain, myself and the other ministers, so that the duke might obtain assurance that the treaty should not be annulled by superior force. He fixed the meeting for yesterday and Marini was received in the presence of the duke, the agent of England, myself, Verua and Crotti. His Highness said that he had sent for us to hear how they proposed to deceive him from the mouth of Sig. Marini himself. Marini replied that as Toledo would not listen to him he had thought it better to leave, and return to his house for further orders. He had to work for peace and the maintenance of the treaty. He thought some new event was preventing the Governor from laying down his arms. The duke replied that the arming of the governor must necessarily be directed either against himself or against the republic. He has not dismissed a man except the Swiss, who can soon return. They have waited until I have completely disarmed and now they will not observe the articles.

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\* Dec. 26.

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Marini replied that he had done his duty, with a little patience all would be well.

The duke asked the agent for his opinion. He seemed astonished at the tearing up of the treaty and promised to inform the king his master, who certainly would not fail in his word.

I also expressed my surprise, as I did not see any reason why these forces should be kept on foot. I insisted rather strongly because I thought it to the advantage of your Serenity that Milan should disarm.

After further discussion the duke allowed Marini to depart. Afterwards they agreed that the whole matter had been arranged with Don Pedro, and these forces are maintained for use in France or Austria as events may decide.

Turin, the 28 December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 28.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**135.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Before I had despatched my letters the duke sent for me to be present at a stag hunt. He told me that he had news from France in letters of the 16th inst. The rival forces have united, Boisdaphin with Guise and Rohan with Condé. The king is virtually besieged in Bordeaux. The duke of Nevers has withdrawn. The English ambassador, being under suspicion, has given up all negotiations. In short everything is upon the hazard.

Turin, the 28th December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 31.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**136.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have received the letters of your Serenity of the 3rd and 4th inst., in execution whereof I have given orders so that when the king arrives in London, where he is expected, I may obtain an audience to present the letters of your Serenity to His Majesty and inform him of your elevation to the dogeship. I am sure that he will be very pleased, as the chief persons of the court have been who have received the information, and even before the news arrived many predicted your election owing to your past services in so many important charges, especially as Captain General of the Sea. Personally I am greatly delighted, and I pray God that you may enjoy a long life in the interests of the public weal.

I will make use of the other letters of the 4th relating the barbarous proceedings of the people of the archduke in Istria and Monfalcone and of your provision of troops to defend your subjects, in order to show the origin of all this. Hitherto I have not heard that any news of these events has reached here, and the only advice which comes here from the Austrian side tends rather to magnify than to justify the act.

The king was expected here in London on Tuesday on his way back from Newmarket, but as he has suffered some pain in one of



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his feet, he has not yet stirred, but it is reported that he is sure to arrive on Saturday in order to celebrate Christmas here, as is his custom.

The Ambassador of Savoy has not yet been to see the king, but after his first proposal to go to Theobalds on Monday last, the Secretary Winwood gave him to understand that he might have audience here in London yesterday, and the whole matter has since been postponed owing to the king's stay. Meanwhile, however, in conformity with his promise to the Ambassador of Savoy the Secretary has not only prepared various letters, which he has shown him but has sent to them to the king so that they may be signed and despatched immediately. He has further acquainted the king with the complaints of the duke, upon which he has already received instructions from His Majesty to speak with the ambassadors of France and Spain here, and he has done so. The French ambassador replied immediately that what had been agreed upon must be carried out, that the Most Christian King will certainly not permit any alteration to be made in what has been negotiated by his ministers, and subsequently ratified by himself. The Spanish ambassador spoke of the disposition of his Catholic Majesty towards general peace and the satisfaction of the king here, of the tranquillity and security in which the duke of Savoy may live that he will not receive any harm; but he went on to say that it would be of no prejudice to His Highness, and should cause him no disquiet if his Catholic Majesty wished to send these troops through, which are in Italy, for other service of his elsewhere. This is interpreted here as meaning either France or Flanders, and it cannot be well received. The ambassador of Savoy therefore points out with greater effect what a great disadvantage the duke would be at if, in addition to his obligations and promise to dismiss the troops, which he needs for protection, he must, at the same time, admit into his state an army which he mistrusts so thoroughly as he does that of Spain, if it is to pass through his country to the other side of the mountains.

A courier has arrived here from Flanders for the Spanish ambassador. I will use all diligence to discover what I can. The archduke Maximilian remains at Brussels, with a touch of gout; there is no further news of him.

London, the last day of December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 81.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra,  
Venetian  
Archives.

137. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

They are still awaiting eagerly the news from France, which can only arrive with great difficulty owing to the blocking of the passes on every hand. However, if anything noteworthy, such as is expected, takes place, they will certainly obtain the news immediately. The dependents of the prince say that he has 35,000 men and 9,000 horse, they have a broad country and everything they need, that since they have taken firm stand in their proceedings their forces have continually increased, as well as

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their reputation. The prince of Condé, the dukes of Mayenne, Longueville, Bouillon, Rohan and Sully and all the other chiefs of the French nobility, are closely united, and they will do whatever is possible to avert the harm that war would cause to France, and rather than engage in action they will endeavour to arrange a peace. If they succeed in this they will demand that those to whom the disorders of France are due shall be delivered into their hands, so that they may be properly judged for the maladministration of France and that the death of the late king may be avenged. That the queen has excluded the chancellor from the council to satisfy them, but these are appearances, and the rule which must be introduced is to be real and not fictitious. That these lords heed nothing and will not march further forwards, but if the king wishes to return to Paris he must cut his way thither with the sword, or their just demands must first be satisfied. That at present the difficulty of news is felt not only here but at Paris also, whence the last letters received contain very few particulars. This is because the army of the princes keeps letters from coming through. Nevertheless the French ambassador and those of his party continue to make their usual assertions, that the king of France means to be obeyed, that if the princes do not speedily submit to his obedience he will fight them, and the king here is greatly deceived by the stories which are told about the forces of the princes, as they have no more than 10,000 persons with them. Some of the French ministers are dissatisfied with the prince of Brandenburg, because he licensed a few companies of horse which have gone to the service of the princes. To this the prince says that before licensing them he notified the ministers of the king by his own ministers that if they wished they might negotiate with his captains to engage them for His Majesty, but he could not maintain those troops which he did not need during the long negotiations upon his affairs, and it was small wonder that the dismissed soldiers should look after their own interests. I hear that the negotiations for an agreement between the princes and his Most Christian Majesty have been broken off and that the queen absolutely refused to agree to the demands put forward; but the princes stood firmly by these. Such is the latest news received by the king from France.

I have heard nothing from Germany in these few days except that the duke of Brunswick not only notified the ambassadors of the States that he had decided to enter the association of the United Princes of Germany but has also reported it at the Hague by means of Count Ernest of Nassau, who married a sister of his, and I hear on good authority that the States guarantee the public peace as well as the safety of the town of Brunswick and will see that the accommodation provides in a fitting manner for the honour and satisfaction of the duke himself.

With regard to the affairs of this kingdom, it was expected that after the delivery of the countess of Somerset her trial would be pushed on. However, she has given birth to a daughter, and the matter has slackened down considerably. Some attribute this to fatigue over such an odious affair, but it is more commonly thought that the interval is in order to sort the materials and obtain more pertinent evidence.

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I have been authoritatively informed that the Spanish ambassador, on coming here, was provided with 90,000*l.* sterling, that is to say 360,000 crowns, that 30,000 were sent to him this year and since then he has spent 20,000, equal to 200,000 crowns. It is known, in particular, that the Catholic king had copies of all the papers of the ambassador Cornwallis who preceded Digby (*Digni*), who is now serving His Majesty with the Catholic king, but it is not yet known whether they came to him through Cornwallis or others.

Some days ago orders were given to the captains of the royal ships to stand to their vessels and the most exact diligence is being employed so that no one may leave the kingdom without a passport.

London, the last day of December, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 31.  
Senato,  
Mar.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**138.** That the power given by this Council to the Cabinet on 12 October, 1610, to make Venetian for two years those foreign vessels which fulfil certain conditions, and which was prorogued for two years from 10 August, 1613, be prorogued for two years following upon the same conditions.

Ayes 189.

Noes 5.

Neutral 8.

[*Italian.*]

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1616.

1616.  
Jan. 1.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

139. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, late Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The queen was pleased to receive me on the very day when I wrote my last dispatch jointly with Barbarigo. I found Her Majesty standing in the gallery at Greenwich alone, waiting for me. After I had made the usual obeisance and drawn near, Her Majesty turned towards the canopy, placed her hand on my arm as a mark of favour, moved towards the canopy and sitting down made me at the same time cover myself and do the like. She was most richly and extraordinarily arrayed, wearing jewels of inestimable price, and she kept me for an hour and more, most graciously discussing various topics, nor, as an additional compliment, did she choose anyone else to remain in the gallery save the Mistress of the Robes and the Secretary Rizzardo, who stood apart awaiting me. She asked me about the well-being of your Excellencies; whether I had any tidings of the election of the new doge and on whom I thought the election would fall. She added assurances of her especial affection for the republic, to which, she said, she was immensely obliged, not merely for the love borne towards herself and her consort, but also for the partiality extended to her brother, the king of Denmark, for which she charged me to thank your lordships, requesting me to back her letters with language of my own. She expressed herself in very affectionate terms and enquired of me in what she could aid and further the welfare and consequence of your Excellencies, of whose love I gave her the most vivid testimony in my power. Her Majesty next proceeded to utter divers conceits in proof of her satisfaction at my loving and respectful service, in terms of praise such as I dare not repeat, since I do not even know that I deserve them. She concluded very graciously by expressing regret at my approaching departure, and she was so kind and familiar at the same time as to defy expression.

When I deemed it time, which was after long and pleasing discourse, evidently agreeable to Her Majesty, I took leave, whereupon the Secretary Rizzardo, who was at the end of the gallery, drawing near, the queen got up from under the canopy and, leaning on me, moved to the centre of the platform, where he kissed her hand, adding a few but appropriate words, which were reciprocated by her in a complimentary strain, showing that she remembered his name and that of his family and that his conduct at the court had pleased her. She then again charged me to add my own verbal assurances to those contained in her letters. On my departure she added that she regretted its being so speedy, and she proved this by every mark of the greatest honour. After I had again kissed her hands I made my exit. Two days later she sent me the letters addressed to your Serenity, and as a mark of

1616.

extraordinary favour her secretary presented me in Her Majesty's name with a large and handsome diamond in a ring. After two more days had passed the prince sent me his missives, and then on the morrow, when on the eve of quitting London, I was informed that the king did not consider that I had taken my final leave and wished to see me again. Anxious to disengage myself and to return home forthwith, I got into the carriage I may say instantaneously, and travelling a great part of that night and the whole of the following day, I reached Newmarket, being met by the royal coaches. I and my attendants were boarded and lodged and escorted to His Majesty by the Ambassador Carleton and a numerous train, well nigh as if it had been a first audience. The king received me very graciously, his good nature inducing him to say that he had not chosen me to depart without seeing him again and that by his letters and yet more through others the depth of his regard for me would be manifested. After this he charged me to assure your Excellencies of the consideration in which he holds and always will hold your convenience and service. He next spoke of French affairs, saying that the princes were gaining strength, and this he uttered with satisfaction. That, with regard to Italian politics, the Spaniards at Milan neither disarm nor restore what they have seized. That the powers of Italy should unite and ponder this.

To this I made answer that His Majesty and France likewise had pledged their words to the restitution, and for carrying into effect what had been agreed to; to which the king merely replied that time would show; and that he had already given orders to endeavour to obtain such a result, uttering this with more reserve. The Secretary Rizzardo then took his leave, the king embracing him once and again, accompanying the embrace with words of affection and honour, wishing him finally a good journey.

I speeded my way back, got to London late on Sunday, and in two days more was ready for departure. His Majesty favoured me with some silver plate, much less than usual but more than was received by the ambassador of the archduke, which augments the respect of your Excellencies. Although I find myself without the greater part of what my predecessors received, that matters little, my property and life appertaining to your Serenity, nor have I ever desired aught or aspired to any other subsidy than that which proceeds from the grace of my own Sovereign and my masters.

My hasty journey to the king and the fatigue which it entailed kept me in bed during four days with pain in my chest and fear of something worse. On Tuesday I quitted London. On the 27th I embarked at Dover for Calais with a fair wind which lasted for two hours, when it freshened and veered in such wise that at great peril I was driven by night into Dunkirk, where, shattered as I was, it behoved me to stay the morrow. I subsequently proceeded towards Calais, where I arrived today much shaken in health. I shall, however, continue my journey in the direction of Paris to-morrow, so as to travel home by the straight and shortest route.

I left the most illustrious Barbarigo in extraordinary repute, both owing to an honourable name which preceded his arrival and by reason of the prudence and splendour which confirmed that repute.

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The king and queen and the whole court gave him the best possible reception, and your Excellencies may rely on receiving the most efficient service from his ability. I derived great comfort from the terms of praise in which their Majesties, the prince and several of the noblemen of the court spoke to me about him, and I most respectfully transmit it to your Excellencies. He is accompanied by three sons, who do honour to his person and to the Embassy, the Sig. Giovanni Francesco, who is the eldest and whose discretion exceeds his years, the Sig. Antonio who is the second in age rather than in merit, and the third, yet a child, gives the highest possible promise.

The Secretary Lionello exhibits a corresponding fitness and proves himself well deserving the favour of your Serenity and your Excellencies, and fully acquits his charge with every attribute of ability and prudence.

From Calais, the 1st January, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 1.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**140.** ANTONIO FOSCARINI, late Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The 4,000 Spanish soldiers who embarked in Portugal for Flanders and afterwards arrived at Dunkirk (*Donchencher*) have been reduced from forty companies to only seventeen, many having died from their sufferings at sea, and those which at first were less than a hundred have been doubled in numbers. They have been sent to various places. The three companies which were there are being provided with clothing and other necessities, as they are in an evil plight and almost naked. They will afterwards be employed elsewhere, and that fortress will remain with its customary garrison of 500. The archduke is enlisting a certain number of Walloons, but there are not many as yet. When passing through Gravelines, one of the best fortresses in Flanders, I heard no news. Here at Calais it is understood that the princes have built some forts upon the estuary towards Bordeaux. The country about here is harassed by the troops of Corbie and other places dependent on the princes and equally by the garrisons of the king.

The archduke Maximilian has been some days at Brussels with the archduke Albert, his brother; it is said that in their long interviews together they have discussed the election of the king of the Romans, but I hear no particulars.

I beg to congratulate your Serenity on your election.\* On reaching home I will, please God, report the state in which I left England and what I found in France when passing through. I can do this briefly in the Cabinet, and subsequently more at length in the Senate.

Calais, the 1st January, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

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\* Giovanni Bembo elected Doge on Dec. 2, 1615.

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Jan. 2.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**141. SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador at Rome, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The French ambassador, in speaking to me of the duke of Savoy, remarked: In order to regain this man it would possibly be a good thing to give the prince, his son, His Majesty's second sister. I thought it proper to say that that prince might possibly allow himself to be persuaded by such gentle means. The French ambassador seemed to agree, but the Spanish did not.

Rome, the 2nd January, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 3.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Zante.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**142. ALMORO BARBARO, Proveditore of Zante, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Dimitri Rucani, controller of the custom newly imposed upon raisins in this island and Cephalonia, had leave from the Senate that he and his followers, for their personal protection, might carry any kind of offensive or defensive weapon except pistols. But being a man of irregular and violent temper, he has abused this kindness, attacking and insulting now and again gentlemen and merchants of this city, and foreign merchants, especially those who live under the protection of your Serenity. I have therefore forbidden him the use of arquebuses at a time when he has no need of them, namely, by day. I have issued the enclosed order to restrain the proceedings of this fellow.

Zante, the 3 January, 1615. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**143. THE ORDER.**

We, Almoro Barbaro, Proveditore of the town and island of Zante, for the peace of the subject and owing to numerous complaints about the treatment meted out by you Dimitri Rucani, controller of the new custom and your followers, to the gentlemen of the town and others, such as foreign merchants, English and Flemish, owing to the licence granted you to carry any kind of arms except pistols, ordain that neither you nor any of your followers shall carry arquebuses in the town in the day time, but shall only use the privilege granted to you in the interests of the said custom, upon pain of punishment in your person and goods.

Zante, the 3 January, 1615. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 7.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**144. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

On Saturday evening His Majesty reached London without having experienced any relief from the pain in his foot; accordingly he has been unable to hear or receive anyone. On Christmas day he heard the sermon and took the sacrament in his room. The ambassador of Savoy is much aggrieved at not being able to send

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back the courier who reached him some days ago, because he has not yet spoken to His Majesty. The Spanish ambassador also has asked for an audience by reason of the courier who reached him from Flanders, and is waiting for it. As His Majesty's pain began to diminish two days ago, it is hoped that he will be ready to leave his room soon and see everyone. He has sent word to me that as soon as he comes out he will be very glad to see me.

The moment he reached London he proclaimed the earl of Pembroke, Lord Chamberlain, in place of the earl of Somerset. I hear that the privy seal will be given to the Master of the Horse and that Sir [Thomas] Lake (*Lag*) will be made Secretary conjointly with the present Secretary Winwood. They want to make a thorough regulation of the royal expenses and revenue, and to arrange everything in a better manner.

After the agreement made between the duke of Brunswick and the town Count Henry returned to the Hague with his troops on the 26th ult.; the duke has been induced the more readily to accept the agreement and dismiss his troops owing to the burden of maintaining them. It is said that some of them, after being dismissed, were enlisted by the duke of Saxony and the king of Denmark, which will serve to keep the Hanse towns still on the alert.

The States have decided to add a third colonel to the two who command the 4,000 Frenchmen paid by his Most Christian Majesty. They are taking this and other steps because they feel certain that they will have war soon and they are thinking of the safety of Juliers above everything else. There, in addition to the preparations made for the campaign, they have given instructions that there must be at least 4,000 soldiers in that town in case of siege.

The count of Bucquoi has arrived at Brussels with various commissions of the emperor. He has seen the archduke Maximilian there and it is considered certain that all their discussions will turn upon the arranging of the affairs of the empire and to create trouble in the country of Cleves or in other ways to attack the interests of the United Princes and the States. This must be done in the emperor's name like Spinola's move against Aix la Chapelle and Wesel under the imperial standards, and just as the Spaniards dragged in the Imperial authority after the treaty of Xanten. These suspicions of the States are become all the stronger as they expect that the archduke Maximilian and Spinola will go on towards Dusseldorf and there hold the court of the supreme government of those states in the emperor's name.

The ambassador of Berne, who has been under the treatment of Mayerne, the king's physician, to cure him of stricture of the urethra, has always followed the king during his absence from London and has had occasion to interview His Majesty at considerable length. The king asked him about the state of the affairs of your Serenity and of the duke of Savoy; he urged him to induce his masters to ask for the effectual opening of the pass of the Grisons and that they may speedily make a strong league with the duke. Since that event the ambassador has received word that the states of Berne wished to begin to negotiate with the duke, for



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securing peace and mutual tranquillity and they had decided to make advances to His Highness in the conference held in the Valais; but the duke did not listen to the first proposals and suggested a league, saying that it was unnecessary to treat for peace where there was no war. This did not satisfy the Lords of Berne, who wished first to secure themselves by a treaty of peace before they joined in a league. The ambassador imparted this to His Majesty. He has further received instructions from his masters to return to France with letters to his Most Christian Majesty who should welcome him and receive him graciously, as he must not stay with His Majesty except to advance their good understanding and union. The ambassador said that before he left he wished to show the king the instructions from his masters because the French ambassador resident here had told His Majesty that he was a seditious person of an evil nature and by what he has written to France he has remained in slight favour with his masters, and the ambassador of Berne wishes to acquaint His Majesty with the actual truth. He told me that in France he is persecuted by the chancellor, by M. de Reffugé, de Caumartin, Pasquale and all who are or have been ambassadors with the Swiss, because his embassy exposes and condemns their action in those countries, but he intends to demonstrate to His Majesty how badly the negotiations have been carried on by those ministers, and that his masters are resolved to have their special representative at the French court, and to have nothing to do with the French ambassadors in Switzerland, and that in his time they will not put up with the licence which those ministers have taken, who have laid hands on his letters.

London, the 7 January, 1615. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 7.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra  
Venetian  
Archives.

145. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

On Saturday M. de Courtenay arrived here, considered to be of the blood royal of France, although for some time his claims have not been admitted. He is sent to the king by the prince of Condé and the other princes to report the state of their affairs and to negotiate for some help from this kingdom, but owing to the indisposition of His Majesty he has not yet been able to obtain audience. Meanwhile he maintains a great reserve in speaking before he has seen the king, but, in spite of this, I have discovered that he brings word that all hope of an accommodation has disappeared; that the prince of Condé and the others are not in a position either to wish or to trust to any composition unless they see matters not only promised but carried out in accordance with their wishes, and especially unless they are satisfied by proceedings being taken against those whom they consider guilty of the late king's death and of the disorders in the realm, above all against the Chancellor. It is now considered certain that the entire body of the Huguenots will declare for the princes, and although the duke of Bouillon wrote about this some days ago, His Majesty is still anxious to hear further particulars. This news causes a great stir

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here in the minds of all, and affords His Majesty a fresh opportunity of ventilating in his Council the question of helping the princes and of discussing the matter further, as by this action the princes will increase their following and reputation, they will have a number of very strong places at their service, namely those held by the Huguenots as a security, and it will afford an inducement and a pretext to many other Protestant princes, who are considered as the natural allies of the French crown.

It is said that at first this declaration was carried in the assembly by only two votes and that those who did not concur with the majority registered a protest, but after the matter had been more thoroughly discussed they agreed to join with the others to unite with the princes, saying that as faithful subjects of the king and in consideration of the present disorders and for the benefit of the kingdom, they could not do otherwise than serve His Majesty in this manner. For these reasons they have arranged with the princes to demand and obtain four principal things: that the acceptance of the decisions of the Council of Trent be repudiated for those things prejudicial to the crown, for which they were never admitted in France in times past. That every provision be made so that the harm that might be feared from the effectuation of the marriages to the crown may be avoided. That the Council be re-arranged. That enquiry be made concerning the death of the late king, and the guilty punished.

There is a great feeling of expectancy on all accounts, but chiefly with regard to Italy and the duke of Savoy, as to what decision the marshal of Lesdiguières will take, as on the one side the last letters show that he is very much inclined to the side of the queen, an attitude greatly fostered by the marchioness, the queen's favourite. On the other side they do not believe that he would dissociate himself from the decision taken by the whole body of the Huguenots, and he had always allowed it to be freely understood that he was at one with them in all their decisions.

At present all agree that the party and army of the princes is very strong and receives very little harm from the marshal Boisdauphin, and it is not known whether they have anything to fear from the duke of Guise. With regard to the numbers of their forces it said that the prince of Condé has with him 18,000 foot and 4,000 horse, the duke of Rohan 12,000 and as many as 8,000 horse, and that the duke of Longueville is coming to Picardy with 6,000 foot to keep that district in obedience.

London, the 7 January, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 12.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**146.** PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The duke of Nevers and the English ambassador after their first journey will return again to the prince; they have been here ten days. I have seen both, in order to learn the results of their labours. The duke told me that the prince desired him to thank me for my representations to the queen. The first difficulties

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which they encountered do not seem likely to prolong the negotiations. The king is willing to admit the Huguenots to take their part in the settlement, but he will not recognise their assembly at Nîmes as legitimate.

Poitiers, the 12th January, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 14.  
Consiglio  
dei Dieci.  
Notatorio.  
Venetian  
Archives.

147. Licence to print a book entitled 'Regola di Perfettione,' by Fra Benedetto, an English Capuchin, in which there is nothing contrary to the laws.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 14.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

148. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have received the letters of your Serenity of the 15th ult. with regard to the reported attacks of the archduke's subjects upon Istria and the encouragement given to the Uscochi. I will use this information to prove the justice of our cause and to show the vanity of the distinctions made by the Imperial ministers between the brigands and the peaceful inhabitants. I have no doubt I shall be able to give the information to everyone at the court that is necessary. I shall have audience of His Majesty this evening, and will execute the other instructions of your Serenity.

The king, although still rather weak, has recovered from the pain in his feet and yesterday evening he gave audience to the Spanish ambassador. Of this I have not yet obtained any particulars. The day before yesterday he gave audience to the ambassador of Savoy, for which he has been waiting for so many days. The ambassador informed His Majesty of the condition of the duke's affairs; that no attempt was being made to execute the treaty, that Don Pedro of Toledo had suspended disarming on his side and all the other subjects with which he was charged and which I have reported at other times. The king showed great friendship and said he was quite ready to do what was right to secure the carrying out of the articles of the treaty. He promised that he would not abandon His Highness in any particular; that moved simply by his friendly feeling he had interested himself in the duke's affairs and done what he had and in the future he would do more after having gone so far and bound himself by such strong promises (*il Ri si è dimostrato pieno di affetto et paratissimo di fare quanto gli convenga perche l'essecutione delle cose accordate non resti inespedita. Ha detto che non sara per abbandonare S.A. in alcuna parte et che se mosso dalla sua propria et sola buona volonta si è interessato et ha fatto tanto in servizio del Duca, che tanto maggiormente lo fara nell' avvenire doppo esser caminato tant'oltre, et haverse già obbligato con promissione così strette*). He had written recently to Spain, to the governor of Milan and to the duke of Mantua not to delay the carrying out of the treaty, and a secretary of the Council,\* who left the day before yesterday for the court of Spain, carries instructions

\* Francis Cottington.

1616.

upon this point among his other commissions. He has been sent to his Catholic Majesty so that the ambassador Digby (*Diglini*) may return, and to remain there as agent. The ambassador is wanted to supply certain particulars upon the present affairs in the courts. As that place will thus be left without an ambassador for the time being, it will not be surprising if his Catholic Majesty follows the example and does the like, as every day they discover fresh evidence of the ill offices performed by the Spanish ambassador resident here. With respect to this Sir [Robert] Cotton was arrested on Saturday on the charge of having given some document of state to the present ambassador.

In place of the earl of Worcester (*Uster*) to whom His Majesty has given the privy seal, he has made Sir [George] Villiers, Master of the Horse; he has created the same person Viscount Leicester, as at present he is very high in His Majesty's favour. Sir [Thomas] Lake has been nominated secretary, as was proposed, and has entered upon his duties. It is thought that the affairs of the kingdom will be entrusted to him, leaving foreign affairs to the aged Winwood (*è stato nominato anco il Car. Lag per Segretario, come era deliberato, et comincia ad essercitare il carico, et si crede a lui saranno destinati i negotii del Regno, restando quelli di Principi al Vinut vecchio*).

London, the 14 January, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 14.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

149. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

There is no news from France, but they still hear that the forces of the Princes are very strong. It is said that the ambassador Edmondes (*Edemont*), who is resident with his Most Christian Majesty, is no favourite at that Court, and the French ambassador here complains of his negotiations as well as of the negotiations received here in the name of the princes. He has spoken to His Majesty asking him not to listen to MM. de Courteney, who have recently arrived.

Yesterday this ambassador called upon me and took the opportunity of making a long statement. He said that the princes under the pretext of reducing to order the affairs of France are disturbing them by their personal ambition and that all those who dread the overweening greatness of Spain ought to see that the forces of the Most Christian King were united, as they were the only ones which could act as a counterpoise to and stop the progress of the Spanish monarchy. He expressed other ideas of the same nature, but what I have reported is the most worthy of the notice of your Excellencies. He complained that the rebels against the king of France are received here and warmly welcomed; that the English ambassador in France urges his Most Christian Majesty to send deputies to negotiate with the deputies of the prince of Condé, which is not seemly between a sovereign and a subject, that the marriages with Spain will not lead to the abandonment of any of the old friends and allies of the crown of France but will provide that the Spaniards shall not plot with the discontented spirits

1616.

and rebels of that kingdom, as they have done at other times. That it is an extraordinary thing that so great a king as the Most Christian should be told that he may not marry as he pleases. He knew that at the very time that the king here is complaining about the marriage of the king of France, he is negotiating to marry his son in Spain. That His Majesty here is a good prince, but he is too ready to believe things that are not true from those who wish to advance the reputation of their own faction. Among other things he informed me that the partisans of the princes go about saying that they have received money from your Serenity. That the king, when last he saw him, asked him whom he reported to be his enemies; he replied: Those who are not friends and are not with them. He said that all the Protestants were dissatisfied with the peace of the duke of Savoy, because they hoped that they would be compelled in France by that step, to declare for one side or the other, either to side with the duke and break the alliance with Spain, if the king of Spain did not fulfil his promises to the duke, but that the prudence of the government had found a middle way by procuring an arrangement which protected the duke of Savoy without breaking the alliance with Spain, their neighbours; that they wished to be considered the warmest of the allies of France and expected to receive security from their troubles, and they did not do what they ought to stop them, but nevertheless they might soon come to see that they had made a mistake and damaged themselves.

I have had occasion to deal with these affairs, but I have contented myself with listening rather than in anything else. I enlarged upon the reverence of your Excellencies for the crown of France, and the king in particular, the mature deliberations of the senate and how all the actions of your Serenity and your candour were open to all the world so that they might easily be seen by his Most Christian Majesty and his Ministers, with much else that I thought suitable.

The ambassador replied that he certainly had not believed what he had heard, adding that he trusted, owing to the prudence of your Excellencies, that it would not take place. To this I made a suitable reply and he seemed satisfied.

With regard to the marriage which he said was being negotiated with Spain, I cannot, for the moment, tell your Excellencies any more, except that I understand that the Spanish ambassador will discuss this matter shortly with someone who may be trusted to negotiate what is really being arranged with His Majesty, but at present the time appears very inopportune for such negotiations, as owing to the changes in the Court any favourable dispositions towards Spanish affairs are suffering from a severe set back.

London, the 14 January, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 14.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci dagli  
Ambasciatori  
in Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

150. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

*Some days ago the ambassador of Savoy told me that when he went to visit the ambassador of France, the latter made the most emphatic complaints to him because in the name of His Highness he had urged*

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*the king to help the princes of France. He denied this absolutely, because he had not performed this office, but had simply endeavoured to find out the king's intentions from himself. He went on to tell me that even if he had been inclined to do this he had not had any opportunity, he had never had letters, had never urged the king and had received no instructions, with many other reasons, which he adduced to prove that he had not done this. The French ambassador replied that he would readily have believed all this if he had not too precise information to the contrary, and this was contained in letters of the Ambassador Foscarini, though he did not know how they had been seen. The ambassador of Savoy again replied with the most emphatic negatives that he could think of, but without success, as he could not shake the opinion of the French ambassador. He therefore begged me to find an opportunity if possible to remove this opinion from the French ambassador's head, because he said that it was founded upon the letters of the Ambassador Foscarini.*

*Accordingly I judged it expedient to see the French ambassador, telling him that the ambassador of Savoy had complained strongly to me, because His Excellency had taxed him with urging the king to help the princes of France, saying that he had learned this from letters of the ambassador, my predecessor. This was extremely disagreeable for me because the ambassador of Savoy expressed or simulated great concern at being charged with any such office, except to discover the king's attitude, and whatever he might have elicited he would have communicated to the Ambassador Foscarini just as the ambassadors generally tell affairs and try to procure information from each other; but what upset me more than anything else was that this advice, for which not the slightest grounds existed, was accredited by attributing it to the letters of my predecessor, and I did not know how that could have happened.*

*The ambassador replied that the ambassador of Savoy ought to be careful what he did, especially when it involved what others had said, but that Sig. Foscarini really had written it, and to the Signory. He did not know how it had happened; possibly the letters had been intercepted; if he had known more he would have told me, and if he learned anything further he would let me know. He did not know when this had happened, but he thought it must have been at the audience at Theobalds, and if so that points to the letters thus seen being those written jointly by Sig. Foscarini and myself on the 16th October. If it has happened in this case it may well have done so in others. I will not spare any vigilance or labour in going into this affair. It does not seem to me that the letters can have been opened anywhere but in Flanders, and the French ambassador receives the information he speaks of from those parts. I have thought it right to communicate this matter to your Excellencies, and as it was of importance I have put it in cipher. I have also sent the present letters by another way than the ordinary one through Antwerp.*

London, the 14th January, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

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Jan. 16.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.

Lettere dagli  
Ambasciatori  
in Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives

151. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

On my arriving in the city the ambassador Foscarini desired me to take some particulars about the Secretary Muscornio for the information of your Excellencies. I had these taken down by my secretary and enclose them with these presents. When Foscarini left he again urged me to take exact information, especially on what was said by M. de Chenez about the demand on his goods at the instance of the earl of Argyll (*Argheil*) and that of Master Guazzo, our interpreter, about seeing him go twice to the house of the Spanish ambassador, and what he heard from divers of the queen's household. The book is very famous, but since news has come of the imprisonment of Muscornio, no one will confess to having a copy. Sig. Angelo Nodari told me that it had been already translated into French and English. That it was to be printed at Frankfort and no copy had as yet gone to Spain. Giovanni Maria Lugaro, a gentleman of His Majesty, told me a great deal about it. Doctor Frere has heard it read and told me various things and there are few who do not know something. Accordingly I see no use in procuring lengthy information for your Serenity.

London, the 7th January, 1615. [M.V.] *Contemporary copy.*

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 17.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra,  
Venetian  
Archives.

152. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, late Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I left Calais, and in two days, the first of which I passed at Boulogne, I reached Montreuil after a safe journey. There I took escort to protect me through the forest. I reached Abbeville (*Abuile*), Poix (*Poe*) and Lin, where I had to stay at the house of the lady of the place for lack of other suitable accommodation and owing to my bad health. I was in great danger of losing my small property to a company of twenty soldiers on horse, who fortunately respected the Secretary Rizzardi who was there. I afterwards passed through Beauvais (*Beoue*) and Beaumont (*Beoms*) to Paris, finding the whole country disturbed by war. Boulogne holds for the king, but the governor is a dependant of the duke of Epemon and would probably change if the duke did. Montreuil is absolutely for His Majesty. Abbeville, a large and populous town, governs itself and inclines to the princes from resentment against the Marquis of Ancre, who wished to make himself master of it; Poix and Lin are open places. Beauvais, a town in no wise inferior to Abbeville, is well fortified at the cost of the inhabitants. Beaumont has a citadel with a garrison paid by the king, as is also the case at Montreuil. Abbeville and Beauvais are well guarded, but by their own inhabitants.

In these parts the princes hold Soissons, Noyon, Chaunay (*Scioni*), Coucy (*Causi*) and Corbie, where there is a strong garrison which operates up to Amiens. Both sides ravage, if anything the king's troops are the worse. The lady of Lin told me that Reims had refused the Baron of Tours, the governor sent by the king, saying that they would govern themselves. It is understood that the

1616.

count of Villeroi and the Marshal Brissac passed from Poitiers to Mothe St. Launay on the 13th to arrange a place with the duke of Sully and M. de Courtenay Bleneau, the deputies of the princes, to settle the present difficulties. Both parties require peace, but it is doubtful whether it will last. They have spoken about an armistice for two months, but there is no certitude. They also speak of satisfying the individual claims of the princes and the dukes of Longueville, Mayenne and Bouillon, with some public reforms and modification of the government. In the king's council after some difference of opinion, the peace party finally prevailed. There are at present more than 70,000 armed men in the field in France, divided into ten corps, and they have devastated a great part of the country, which has suffered more this one year than in three or four of the past wars. The marshal of Boisdauphin and the duke of Guise each commands a corps for the king; the marshal of Ancres also has a good number of troops in the field. On the other side the prince of Condé and the other princes dispose of powerful forces. The duke of Rohan, assisted by the Huguenots and others, is powerful beyond the river. M. de la Force (*Fors*) has a large following. The duke of Vendôme has about 800 horse and seven to eight thousand foot in Brittany and is increasing their numbers, without disclosing his purpose. The duke of Nevers is bringing Swiss into his duchy and into his governorship of Champagne, which is contiguous. The waggons which ordinarily go from here to Lyons do not now dare to proceed; a few go on horse, but most fare badly. I have been doing my utmost to obtain carts for my baggage, with little success. I have at length found some if I will go by way of Chalons and take boat there. I shall decide to-morrow and set out on the following morning, even if I have to leave my baggage behind and reach your Serenity on foot.

The ambassadors of Savoy and of the States have been to see me, and M. de Bisseaux, the late ambassador in England, desired to entertain me. I have been obliged to take a passport in order to secure my property and person as much as possible. I thought it right to go and pay my respects to the duke of Anjou, the king's only brother. I did this yesterday, congratulating him on his good health and telling him that your Excellencies desired the prosperity of the king his brother and of the royal house. M. de Breves, his tutor, replied in a suitable and courteous manner and charged me to recommend his service to your Excellencies.

Paris, the 17 January, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

153. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, late Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The ambassador of Savoy in speaking to me of the affairs of Italy said that the Spaniards will not make restitution and at Milan they are increasing their forces; that his duke desiring peace, has disarmed, but all the same he has re-inforced the garrisons of Asti and Vercelli, so that those places may be able to defend themselves from all attempts. He has made urgent representations to their Majesties



1616.

and the ministers to see that restitution and disarming and the promises of Spain are carried out. They have told him that the promises are explicit, but they have put him off until the king's return to Paris. He pointed out that in the meantime the duke is in peril and incurring expenses; that His Highness desires to preserve his liberty, his state and his honour. He hinted that he hoped your Excellencies would employ your customary good offices and use your influence with Mantua to eradicate all feelings of rancour, and thereby deprive the Spaniards of a pretext for interfering in Italy, that in this Savoy left everything to you. I replied that your Excellencies would undoubtedly use your good offices for peace and would endeavour to foster a good understanding between Savoy and Mantua.

The Dutch ambassador told me that he was instructed to ascertain whether their Majesties and the Ministers proposed to maintain their alliance and good understanding and to wish the prince all prosperity and peace. In speaking of Brunswick he said that the duke had made terms with the town unfavourable to himself, and that the Hanse towns, which comprise sixty-two great and powerful communities, are all allied with the States and bound to defend them; they are bound by the terms of the league to join those princes who are best able to repress the forces of Spain, during the truce.

Paris, the 17 January, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Savoi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

154. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The duke sent for me late yesterday evening and I spent three hours with him. He showed me his correspondence with the governor of Milan and a letter of Carlo Perone. After reading them he said: That is the condition I am placed in; the treaty is to be torn up and I am to submit to the Spaniards. They propose to start fresh negotiations when they are armed and I am naked. This is contrary to my honour and my liberty. From France I can expect nothing but crosses and ill offices. England is far off and it is uncertain what will come forth from the mind of a king so tardy, the friend of ease and quiet. Accordingly I turn to the republic and say: If these Signori will maintain what has been promised and established by their hands, let them operate, as they see best, or if they do not see a way, the right thing is to join with me to destroy these traitors, full of every fraud and deceit. If they will use their strength I promise that we shall either win an honourable peace together, or a great state to divide.*

Turin, the 17 January, 1616. [M.V.]

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

Jan. 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci  
Savoi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

155. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The advices of the court here from France state that their Most Christian Majesties are at Poitiers, in great scarcity of everything, the country being wasted. In spite of all they are negotiating with

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the duke of Nevers, the English ambassador and the deputies of the new religion, and if these come to naught they hope that Condé's heat will be somewhat assuaged and that their Majesties may return in safety to Paris.

There can be no accommodation without severe prejudice to the kingdom and the royal authority, as the admission of the Huguenots to treat is an admission of the division of religion, in which each part must be equal.

Turin, the 17th January, 1615. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 18.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**156.** PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The deputies of the king and of the prince should have been at Niort on the 15th to negotiate, but the Governor would not admit the horsemen of the prince so they had to go to Fontenay and they have not met before to-day. The English ambassador has also betaken himself to that meeting continuing to interpose the authority of his king, especially with the Huguenots, to further a satisfactory settlement. Meanwhile the king has decided to leave for Tours, as they cannot put up with the scarcity any longer.

Poitiers, the 18th January, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 21.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**157.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

In conformity with what I reported in my last despatch, I had audience of the king on Thursday evening last week, when I presented the letters of your Serenity and spoke in conformity, offering this as a sign of confidence in His Majesty on the part of the republic, which had instructed me to give the information; I expressed all this in what I considered suitable terms. The king received the letters and listened to my remarks with every sign of satisfaction. He spoke of your Excellencies in terms warmly affectionate and honourable and said he had heard of the distinguished qualities of your Serenity. After this speech I asked His Majesty what he thought of the affairs of Italy owing to the arrival of the new Governor of Milan. He began to tell me that after his arrival in that state, instead of dismissing the troops which remained and completing the execution of the treaty made with the duke of Savoy, he not only kept the old troops on foot but levied new ones, and in everything and through everything he has shown his disinclination to carry out the treaty. His Majesty had learned about these projects of the Spaniards from his ambassador in Spain before they had been so extensively manifested in Italy, by the operations of Don Pedro of Toledo. This man would never have been sent as Governor to Milan if they really cherished the good intentions which they profess, as he is a person most admirably suited to destroy what has been arranged and not to complete what still remains to be done. That as princes generally

1616.

have a knowledge of persons in responsible positions in the states of others, he knew this man very well for a pretentious, impertinent and turbulent fellow. He used this particular word with intent, to indicate a disquiet mind (*che come sogliono i Prencipi haver cognitione delle persone di carico nelli altrui stati, conosceva benissimo la persona sua, ch'era un pretendente, un' impertinente, et un bruglione,\* usando questo particolar vocabolo con efficacia, per esprimere un' ingegno inquieto*). He afterwards went on to say that if resistance is not offered he will want to embroil the world. For his own part, although he was some distance away from the affairs of that province, yet simply out of regard for the common peace and solely for the good of Christendom he had given those orders which he hoped would serve to obtain the execution of the agreement, and that those who are interested like your Excellencies ought to give him advice of all this, so that you might, from a nearer point of view and having greater interests, make representations to the Governor of Milan and do whatever else might tend to the carrying out of the treaty. I thanked His Majesty both for his confidence to your Excellencies and for his good intentions in the cause of peace and the peace of Italy in particular, saying that I would inform your Excellencies of what he said.

The king still suffers somewhat from the pain in his foot. He intended leaving London on Monday, but owing to the cold, which has been excessive and has increased the pain, he put it off, first to Tuesday and then to yesterday and finally to Monday next, even if then; and he is greatly distressed by the pain.

I have received your Serenity's letters of the 26th ult. concerning the positions occupied by your troops in the archduke's country on the borders of the Lisonzo. I will use this information as you direct, as here they are more content to learn about the operations of your Excellencies than of the works of others, and thus they speak more of the present actions than of the past burning.

The archduke Maximilian has left Brussels and has gone to take part in a diet with the archbishop of Cologne, to be held at Bonn.

M. de Courtenay has had audience of the king, but has obtained no resolution from him, except to repeat the instructions to the ambassador Edmondes to make urgent representations to their Most Christian Majesties to satisfy the princes and pacify the kingdom. No news has arrived of the progress of the rival forces. The partisans of the princes deny that the duke of Guise has cut in pieces any German troops of the princes, news printed at Paris. They say that in Normandy M. de St. Denis de Mailloc has routed four companies of infantry sent by the cardinal archbishop of Rheims to the duke of Guise, his brother, to the camp of their Majesties, but what they are most anxious to know here is whether it is true that the king is going to Paris.

I have received a copy of the articles arranged between the princes and the Huguenots, and enclose a copy.

London, the 21 January, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

\* Probably James spoke in French and used the word *brouillon*. *Bruglione* is not recognised as an Italian word by the Accademia della Crusca.

1616.

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**158.** Articles arranged between the prince and the deputies of the General Assembly at Nimes, after the latter had protested that they would never depart from their obedience to the king, whom they recognize as their sovereign lord, and from the public peace, to which end they beg the prince to direct all his efforts.

To this end the princes and deputies promise to unite their efforts:

To preserve the king's life and enquire into the late king's death.

To prevent the accepting of the Council of Trent as being prejudicial to the rights of the Crown, the liberty of the Gallican Church and the edicts of pacification.

To join in common action to prevent any harm arising from the completion of the alliance with Spain.

To secure the establishment of a good council for His Majesty and of good order in public affairs in conformity with the remonstrance of the parliament depriving of power those who are guilty of the disorders in the State, indicated by that remonstrance.

To provide that the Huguenots shall enjoy all that has been previously granted to them, both by the edict of Nantes and by other declarations, and that all these be verified in parliament and in other courts of the kingdom; but chiefly that they may enjoy what was requested by their deputies in the said assembly in August and September last.

In addition to this to do justice upon the other articles which deal with complaints upon the interpretation and evasion of the edict and to decide definitely upon the number of the ancient councillors of State.

To provide for the establishment of the Huguenots, and that they be not deprived of their goods, offices or pensions by reason of their religion or of the present action.

To promise not to abandon each other or to lay down arms before the aforesaid matters are settled.

To have complete interchange of views, for which purpose the deputies shall take part in the councils of the prince, and his deputies shall be present at the assembly, which shall not otherwise be able to discuss or decide anything.

The armed forces and the disposition of the money and the other affairs of the said churches shall be administered solely by the said assembly, but the forces shall be under the commission of the prince.

The assembly shall appoint the ministers of the towns and districts held by the Huguenots.

Provision shall be made for the safety of churches in the provinces where they have no retreat, and which may be exposed to danger by reason of the present treaty; they shall be provided with the first places acquired in those provinces which are suitable as a refuge.

There shall be no alteration made in the places held by those of the religion.

The Huguenots may withdraw to the places held by the princes, and shall have free exercise of their religion during the present troubles as freely as they enjoy it elsewhere.

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In the towns held by the princes in which those who hold to the reformed religion and this treaty have taken refuge, and who have been expelled and their goods forfeited, provision shall be made for such refugees sufficient to live upon.

Dated at the camp of St. Sensay, the 27 September, 1615.\*

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 23.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

159. To the AMBASSADOR in Savoy.

Last week we answered count Scaglia upon the proposals of the duke and directed you to speak to His Highness to the same purpose. If he continues to press the matter we direct you to inform him that our only wish is to preserve our state in liberty; that owing to our differences with the archduke we are arming, and he can soon collect considerable forces, so that we do not think it likely that he will be attacked by the Spaniards, who have withdrawn their forces from his frontiers and directed them towards ours. Thus to negotiate a league or to pass to other acts while negotiations are proceeding with the governor would arouse great suspicion and break off all negotiations, to the great prejudice of himself and us, and would offend the powers who are interested in these affairs, such as Rome, France and England, as it is not likely that they will fail in what they have promised, and it would not be right to alienate them by proceedings which would give them a reasonable pretext to do so, while compelling the Spaniards to arm and unite with others. We therefore feel sure that His Highness will continue his negotiations with Milan as well as with Rome, France and England, while we shall not neglect such offices as we may deem helpful to his wishes, so that no one may be able to say that the public peace has been disturbed by us and our operations. His Highness may rest assured that when need arises we shall not fail to do what is possible to help him.

Ayes 155.

Noes 1.

Neutral 8.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 23.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Disposci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

160. ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

On the 18th instant the Galleon Dafin arrived. It was accompanied from Zante as far as Scios by some Flemish berton. They met no pirates on their voyage but they report that these berton have previously engaged with three others of Barbary, though they did not tell me where. *In this connection I must not omit to inform your Serenity that the captains of Flemish and English berton confess that at the present time it is no longer possible to voyage alone as they used owing to the increase in the number of the berton of Barbary.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 23 January, 1615. [M.v.]

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

\* A copy of these articles in French is preserved at the Public Record Office, *State Papers, Foreign, France*, Vol. 64

1616.  
Jan. 29.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

161. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England,  
to the DOGE and SENATE.

*I have received your Serenity's letters of the last day of last month upon the disturbances upon the archducal frontiers. I asked for an audience at once and obtained it yesterday evening. I exactly carried out my instructions, informing His Majesty concisely of the state of affairs and of the justice of the cause of your Serenity, while assuring him of the respect and esteem of your Excellencies. His Majesty listened to me most attentively and replied with expressions full of the warmest friendship towards the republic. I assure your Excellencies that my pen fails me to adequately describe the vigour and roundness of His Majesty's remarks. He spoke first upon what I had said to him about the perfect understanding which had always existed between the republic and this crown, and said that in particular the friendship and esteem between your Serenity and His Majesty had been especially great. It had increased and received expression in the declaration made by him for your Serenity in the controversy with Rome. This friendship had since been consolidated on both sides, and His Majesty would show himself an inconstant prince if he did not maintain the same feelings, especially as he has had so many opportunities of seeing the goodwill of your Serenity towards him. That if, instead of responding to their sentiments, he had shown himself averse from what had been shown in the past, he would stand convicted of inconstancy and ingratitude. He went on to tell me that there was no state in Christendom, and especially no Roman Catholic state, where some writing displeasing to him had not appeared, except the state of your Serenity, which had always looked carefully after this, and had never admitted into your state any person known to be displeasing to him, or any rebel against him, and you had readily imprisoned and sent to him others, when he desired it, and when his safety required it. You had not allowed those doctrines to take root in your dominions, as they had done for some time in France, which are so prejudicial and perilous to the lives of kings, and in everything else you have always displayed a singular disposition to oblige His Majesty, so that there is no state to which he is more indebted and for which he feels more friendship. He will always be the same towards your Serenity, that what he has declared he would do upon other occasions, he will declare upon this. He wishes to see your Serenity free from all difficulties and enjoying complete tranquillity, but if this may not be, he will be delighted to have an opportunity of showing his good feeling, as he values your Serenity more highly than any power in the world. He was sorry to be so far away, and that the difficulties thrown in the way by the French had not permitted the completion of the matter with the Grisons as they might have been of great service to your Serenity, but that in any case whatever he could give, whether it were advice or assistance, would be rendered with a hearty good will. At the present time he thought it would be well for your Serenity to describe the state of the affair and define your position; if this was written down, he himself would be better informed, and he would discuss it with the Spanish ambassador or anyone to whom he might speak.*

*I thanked His Majesty in the warmest possible manner, endeavouring most carefully to express the esteem of your Excellencies and your*

1616.

grateful memory. I enlarged upon the willingness with which your Serenity would seize opportunities to gratify His Majesty, and that his authority and greatness were not limited by distance. I took the opportunity to insist here upon what I consider the essential part of the position of your Serenity and of the past occurrences, the better to impress them upon his memory. He replied that he was well acquainted with the facts and with the position of your Serenity; he knew the *Uscocchi* to be public robbers; it should rather be considered a disgrace to a prince to afford an asylum to such men than to expect to be asked by others not to admit them into his state. He remembered very well that his ambassador had written to him before, and my predecessor here had spoken to him about the affair of the galley *Venier*. With regard to the document in particular he knew the great importance of informing the world of one's own actions, and he himself and everyone else would be able to speak with fuller information from such a document than from conversation merely.

He had that morning received letters from his agent with the duke of Savoy, from whom he learned among other things that His Highness had advised your Serenity in this conjuncture, that if it were necessary for you to begin a war, he would create a diversion on his side; he would attack and would provide you with experienced soldiers. His Majesty considered all this excellent advice, to be taken together with his own. He used these ideas throughout the interview. I lost no opportunity of thanking him or of fixing in his mind the more essential parts of the affair.

London, the 29 January, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

Jan. 29.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

162. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Having fulfilled the office committed to me by your Serenity with the king, as I reported in my last, I subsequently executed the commands of your Excellencies with the ambassador of the States and the agent of the count Palatine, who are at the court here, making use of the information which I had received according to the rank of the person and as I thought the intentions of your Serenity to be. Before speaking with the king I made myself completely master of the contents of the letters of the 27th November, the 4th, 14th and 26th of December and of these last, adding such observations and arguments as my own knowledge supplied upon the long series of years that these insults and depredations of the *Uscocchi* have endured. I have not, however, received any letters of the 30 October last. At the present time there is no lack of opportunity to make use of all this, as both the court and the city are full of talk about it. I will bear myself towards the ambassador of France as your Excellencies direct.

I have not been to see the Spanish ambassador since my arrival at this court, seeing that he did not come to visit me when I arrived here as all the others did, and as is usually done. After some days he deftly contrived to make known to Sig. Foscari by means of his chaplain that he had always conceived a particular esteem for the person and quality of His Excellency, but it was not fitting that he should deal with me in the same manner as he had done with

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him, but that there should be some difference of title ; at the same time he was very courteous over it all. The Illustrious Foscarini did everything that he could to dissuade him from making these pretensions and by acquainting him that as I was the ambassador of the same power with the same rank, it was not at all proper that I should act differently from my other predecessors ; and from what I myself had done elsewhere, where I had also been ambassador in the service of your Serenity, and where I had enjoyed not only every confidence but the closest friendship with the ambassadors of His Catholic Majesty without any difference of treatment and as they have always dealt with all the ambassadors, especially here in England. The Illustrious Foscarini before his departure went to call upon the Spanish ambassador to take leave and took that opportunity to urge him to maintain such relations with me as are fitting with a minister of your Serenity, without speaking of other respects so much observed by His Catholic Majesty. The Spanish ambassador replied, however, that he had instructions from his king not to deal with the ambassadors of your Serenity, except under a title less than what he receives, calling those Most Illustrious who call him Excellency ; that for the Most Illustrious Foscarini he had always entertained a high regard for his special merits, and at that particular moment, when he was laying down his charge as ambassador, he wished to show him every honour. The Most Illustrious Foscarini replied that in himself he had no merit except in being the ambassador of your Serenity, and as the Spanish ambassador had called the person so nominated His Excellency, he had replied with similar courtesy. The ambassador replied that he had used the word Excellency because that had been applied to him and not to others, but he used it only for Sig. Foscarini, but not in the quality of ambassador. He then began to tell Sig. Foscarini that he had previously announced that he refrained from returning his visit on this account. After Sig. Foscarini's departure I kept on the look out for any opportunity that might occur for preserving the dignity of your Excellencies and which would not entirely break off all relations with the Spanish ambassador, but as nothing new has occurred, I have thought it right to send a complete account to your Serenity, asking you to excuse the time spent on this tedious matter amidst so many other important affairs. These things are not much in themselves, but in the consequences, as it is not seemly in the relations between the ministers of princes to yield the smallest point of ceremonial ; as a diminution of prestige may lead to the advance of other pretensions.

London, the 29 January, 1615. [M.V.]

[*Italian*; the part in italics deciphered.]

Jan. 29.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

163. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The latest news from France relates the election of the deputies and of the deputation of Niort to negotiate an agreement with the princes. This has given rise to the opinion here that an accommodation is certain to take place, although the advices of the great confusion now prevalent in every part of France do not give



1616.

grounds for the belief that it will be brought to a condition of settled tranquillity so easily, and some of the partisans of the princes here think still that there will be difficulties in making a settlement, and even if the princes do not succeed in obtaining the terms which they demand, at any rate it will not be to their disadvantage to postpone negotiations until the time for campaigning. The French ambassador has recently received a letter of the 9th inst. from the Poitiers, written for the king by M. de Puisieux (*Piseurs*), the Secretary of State. It relates the risk run by the Princes of being caught by the duke of Guise at St. Menzan, that three companies of horse of the princes have been routed and cut to pieces and six regiments of infantry taken. That not a single one escaped, except a few, by swimming; and that the princes are only saving themselves from total defeat by continually retiring and by never remaining for long in the same place. This letter, which has been published with some printed documents, has caused great excitement in the minds of all, until the truth is learned about these events; this is far from being in accord with these publications, and in order to avoid encounters the troops on both sides have withdrawn, as your Excellencies will have learned from elsewhere.

The king has learned with great satisfaction that his ambassador in France has laboured with great energy to arrange for negotiations for an agreement, and that the queen mother in particular had appreciated it and had expressed her obligation to His Majesty, thanking him very cordially by means of the ambassador resident here for having intervened in these negotiations, although at first it was very distasteful to Her Most Christian Majesty, and the ambassador here, in particular, complained loudly because the king here was endeavouring to bring them to negotiate with the princes saying that it was not fitting, but that they, as subjects, must submit themselves to the favour of their lord. I understand that upon this occasion, in order the more to please the king here, they have again begun to negotiate upon the marriage of Madame, the second sister of His Most Christian Majesty and that prince. M. de Courtenay, who is here for the princes, would have wished the king to do something more in favour of their party, as His Majesty really admits the justice of their complaints especially upon the point of their not actively endeavouring to find those guilty of the late king's death. This seems to have weight with His Majesty, owing to the evil example, which may have ill effects not only in France but everywhere else. I have been told that His Majesty excused himself to the duke of Bouillon for not having done more up to the present, but he hoped to bring matters into a good state by arranging an agreement, but if this did not succeed His Majesty after obtaining in the meantime a greater supply of money from the parliament, might be able to provide them with greater assistance. At present they say very little about when parliament will meet, the king gave orders for it when at Newmarket, but when he reached London he said no more about it. To-day he meant to leave in any case, but although his feet are somewhat better they are not quite well, and yesterday he gave me audience while sitting on his bed. The king's wish to leave London is not only to be attributed to his ordinary fondness

1616.

for the country, through which he never makes a long stay in the city, but much more because he does not wish to be here during the progress of the trial of the earl of Somerset and his adherents. This very day the earl and his wife have been pronounced guilty of the death of Overbury by the twelve, who in accordance with the customs of England, decide the question of fact.

They expect soon to begin a trial of far greater importance, namely the question of interests in the affairs of Spain, but it is not expected that anything definite will be decided before the arrival of the ambassador Digby (*Dighni*).

London, the 29 January, 1615. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 29.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**164.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Encloses account of his expenses, as he has spent the sum of 150 ducats which he received on leaving Venice.

London, the 29 January, 1615. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

[*The account is wanting.*]

Feb. 1.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**165.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have seen the duke, and presented the letters to your Serenity. He thanked me, but said that it was not sufficient to defend him if attacked. He said he had letters from England of the 14th ult. sent by extraordinary courier, who brought instructions to the agent to go to Milan and make representations for the disarmament and the fulfilment of what was promised. The duke said that the same office ought to be performed by the minister of the Republic; I think they will do it, but they are so cold that I do not know what to promise myself.

Turin, the 1st February, 1615. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 2.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**166.** PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The duke of Nevers and the king's deputies returned to court two days before their Majesties arrived here. They reported that they had arranged an armistice with the princes until the 1st of March, and there is to be a conference on the 10th of that month to arrange peace. Nothing but peace is now talked of; it is much desired, the people being tired of the disorders and the princes exhausted. The English ambassador has been present at all the negotiations and has proved marvellously successful, employing the authority of his king in particular with the duke of Bouillon and the Huguenot deputies. At first they looked unfavourably upon his interference as well as upon that of any other minister of a prince, but as his efforts have

1616.

proved so successful, they are now grateful to him and have thanked him warmly.

Tours, the 2nd February, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 3.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disparci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**167. PIETRO VICO, Venetian Secretary in Spain, to the Doge and SENATE.**

The ministers here have made grave complaints to the English ambassador because the count of Nassau, contrary to the capitulations made by the princes pretending to the duchy of Cleves, has taken possession of some places in that state which were neutral, telling him that the king will not suffer wrong to be done to a prince under his protection, that he kept an army in Flanders to protect him against every one and would make his power felt. *They seemed much dissatisfied with that king.*

The ambassador excused his master, saying that he had intervened in that affair simply in the interests of peace, to which end all his efforts were directed, and he had no part in these proceedings.

The ambassador has sent an account of all this to England.

Madrid, the 3rd February, 1615. [M.V.]

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Feb. 5.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**168. To the KING OF GREAT BRITAIN.**

Our great confidence in your Majesty induces us to direct our ambassador Barbarigo to represent the grave events which are happening. We beg you to hear him graciously, as the matter is of the greatest moment both for the welfare of the republic and the general good.

Ayes 148.

Noes 7.

Neutral 12.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 5.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**169. To the AMBASSADOR IN ENGLAND.**

The provocations and hostility in the matter of the Uscocchi have been continued by the archduke's people, so that instead of effecting the promise, so frequently made, to extirpate that race, they are openly protecting them and have entered our provinces of Istria and Dalmatia together with these, devastating and robbing the country and compelling our representatives to make reprisals against them. Thus for example the enemy to the number of 800 were overtaken near Puola, when laden with booty, by two of our companies and 300 infantry, who routed them after a sharp skirmish, recovering the booty, killing 160 and taking about a hundred prisoners. On the frontiers of Friuli, where we have taken archiducal possessions, various skirmishes have taken place, generally to the disadvantage of the enemy, who have lost 200 killed and many prisoners, the killed including Captain Franco and the Lieutenant of Ortenburg. Thus the justice of our cause becomes

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more apparent by showing the necessity of our operations. The emperor requested a truce of two months, during which he gave his word to fulfil his promises and to remove the root of the evil. We agreed to this by our ambassador and the Imperial officials sketched a document for him, upon which we might easily have come to an agreement, if the archiducal party had desired, but they first caused delays and soon showed how little they desired peace, as while they contrived delay by various pretexts they never broke off hostilities but continued to increase their forces, constantly bringing up new troops to our frontiers, while they never lost an opportunity of preventing us from bringing new troops or getting other help.

With this information and with the letter which we send you for the king, you will acquaint His Majesty with these particulars as your prudence may suggest, adding that our long patience and our peaceful disposition show our good intentions. We are arming in the interests of public safety and to defend our subjects, hoping to see the end, once and for all, of these troubles. Even if the breach continues, His Majesty has proved his zeal for the preservation of free princes, especially in Italy, to the glory of his name. We confide in this and expect his advice and demonstrations worthy of his good disposition towards us and of his greatness and authority. The greater our obligations towards His Majesty so much the greater will be our gratitude. The justice of our cause is notorious. If you see that he is impressed you may point out how helpful it will be for His Majesty to declare himself and give his opinion in our favour, expressing his displeasure at the undeserved attacks made upon us, and that they prefer to protect a lot of villains rather than keep their reiterated promises. Such representations made at the court of Spain or wherever else he might think fit, would be of great assistance. It would also be of great help if His Majesty would induce the Elector Palatine and the other princes of Germany to declare in favour of a proper settlement of this affair.

You will also make similar confidential communications to the ambassador of the States and other ministers of princes so that they may be impressed by the justice of our cause, by the true state of affairs and by our determination to defend ourselves.

If the troubles do not cease we may need a quantity of munitions of war, and powder, rope, etc. You will take note of what quantity and quality of such munitions you can obtain there if necessary, sending us word of the cost and carriage. You will also discover how many thousand foot you might obtain with ease from that kingdom with the king's goodwill and if it would be better to get Irish troops, advising us clearly of the wages, the expenses and arrangements for transporting them with all particulars you consider worthy of our notice.

The duke of Savoy notifies us that the new Governor of Milan desires that all negotiations between them may be carried on by favour of the Catholic king, without abiding vigorously by the treaty. He points out the necessity for him to arm afresh, the impossibility of his doing so, the ease with which he could come to an agreement, every facility being offered by Spain, and redoubles

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his instances for a defensive league with him. We have replied by affirming our constant care for his interests, and for the general liberty and peace and by declaring that a league or other action would break off all negotiations and would offend the princes already interested in the matter, who ought to be approached first, so as not to give the Spaniards an excuse for arming or leaguings with others; that His Highness has nothing to fear for the present and may rest assured of our continued goodwill.

We send this for your information only.

Ayes 143.

Noes 7.

Neutral 12.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 5.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

170. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

In fulfilment of the commands of your Serenity I have been to see M. Caron, ambassador of the States, and told him, as a sign of confidence towards his masters, the particulars of events taking place on the archiducal frontiers, by reason of the Uscochi, so that he might inform them not only of the events, but of the reasons and the necessity which move your Serenity to provide for your just defence. I delivered to him the whole of my commission and after he had heard everything and showed especial satisfaction, he replied that he would send his masters special information of all this, that they would clearly discern the justice of the cause of your Excellencies, both by reason of the particulars which I had given him and also of their knowledge of the prudence with which your Serenity manages your affairs and by their own experience that from certain princes it is much easier to obtain promises than deeds. He then proceeded to tell me that the affairs of Cleves may in time give rise to some new movement, as the Spaniards show signs of contriving various things not only there but still further inside Germany, where the Emperor manifested great displeasure that they had entered in order to deliver the town of Brunswick from the siege. Owing to the obligations of their league they could not suffer this. He ended by affirming the warm friendship of his masters for your Excellencies, the esteem which they have for the republic and their desire for the greatness and prosperity of your Serenity.

I performed a similar office with the agent of the Elector Palatine at this court. He also received it very courteously and told me that he would send a special account to His Highness, in which respect and by his own inclination he is anxious to serve your Serenity. He also made remarks about the non-fulfilment of the promise to remove the Uscochi from Segna and compare it with the negotiations upon the treaty of Santen and for the restitution of Wesel. He informed me that the Elector Palatine proposes to send to His Majesty very shortly the count of Schomberg, and he dwelt a little upon the news of some troops levied from the archbishopric of Mayence, although the archbishop sent a special person to assure His Highness that he should be subject to no attack. He had heard that the archduke Maximilian on his return to Flanders, was to pass by

1616.

way of Heidelberg, and he reckoned that at that very moment or very shortly he should be in that town or at least in the neighbourhood. He knew nothing, however, whether he took that way as being the easiest route or whether it was in order to promote some affair in conformity with the things which might have been concerted with the archduke Albert at Brussels and with some other decision which may have been taken at the meeting between the same archduke at Bonn and the archbishop of Cologne and many other prelates of Germany who met there, as I have previously written to your Serenity.

Owing to suspicions about these negotiations and the various movements and preparations which are daily being made by the Spaniards, the United Princes of Germany live in some anxiety about their own affairs; but the margrave of Brandenburg and the States are much more disturbed about the affairs of Cleves. These last days the States have made a thorough review of all their forces of war, after which they have given orders to raise 6,000 new infantry and they are much relieved that their ambassadors at Brunswick have completely finished the accommodation between the town and the duke of Brunswick, because at the first accommodation they only negotiated to withdraw the forces, but no further particulars were arranged, as is now understood to have happened.

The same ambassador confirmed the league with the Hanse towns, which are to supply the States, when they need it, with 1,000 horse and 5,000 foot and they will send a certain sum of money every year as a deposit in Holland, to be used according to events for the general benefit of both parties.

It is also understood that the elector of Brandenburg has arranged to procure troops for the service of his own interests in the country of Cleves, as the same thing is being done by the duke of Neuburg and also by the Spanish party for their own ends, and the count of Buequoi has already executed the commissions received from the archduke to levy two regiments and the count of East Friesland one, for making 6,000 foot.

The queen here, who is not very fond of the Dutch, owing to their differences with the king of Denmark, her brother, has been much put out by seeing a picture print representing a damsel, called the damsel of Brunswick, who is apparently being attacked by a knight upon a bull, with a stag's horn upon his head, and who is rescued by three other knights. The queen has seemed greatly offended at this, as she believes that the king of Denmark is intended by the knight upon the bull; she has shown great resentment about it to M. Caron, the ambassador of the States, telling him that she meant to have the interpretation of those figures. He replied that he did not know it, and he succeeded in persuading Her Majesty that such inventions are probably the work of the Spaniards, in order to excite the wrath of Her Majesty, the more so because the States, in order to do everything possible for the satisfaction of Her Majesty, have suppressed and banished these prints from the whole of their country; Caron declared that not a single one was to be found in all Holland, except two copies, and a very high reward had been offered to whoever should disclose the author of the work.

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From France, since the news about this place and the deputies for the negotiations between their Majesties and the princes, nothing further has arrived, and they are on the tiptoe of expectation, awaiting the issue of those affairs. Meanwhile His Majesty has sent M. de Montbarot to return to the princes, and has given him various letters from him exhorting them to abandon disputes about ceremony and to work for an agreement.

London, the 5 February, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 5.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disposci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

171. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Sir [Henry] Wotton, destined to be ambassador to your Serenity, told me that he had already taken leave of the king to start in a few days, long before His Majesty has reason to return to London, that he has orders to take the German route on his way out and to visit the Elector Palatine and the princess in the name of His Majesty. He has some private commissions for them for the special service of the princess to provide her with a secretary and with some lady to stay with her, as the one who went with her has recently died, to whom she was very attached. In addition to all this he had orders from His Majesty of greater moment, to assure that prince of his special protection; that His Majesty wishes to know not only the intentions of the Palatine, but of all the rest of Germany, to which the greatness of Spain may prove perilous, and those designs which by using the opportunity of the French alliance will be turned to the prejudice of other free princes; that the king will use every endeavour to preserve the league of the united princes in security and far from all harm and danger which may threaten them. He hopes to induce the king of Denmark also to enter the union, and the duke of Brunswick, and he is determined in any case not to permit the further advancement of the affairs of Spain. This could have been done much more easily this year as order had now been introduced into the affairs of the kingdom, and His Majesty certainly would and could do everything reasonable. Although in the preceding year he had done a great deal and more than any other prince for the duke of Savoy, yet it could not be denied that he might have been able to do more, but great impediments were caused by the scarcity of money, which arose from the upset of good order in the kingdom, but in the year to come things will be done systematically, which should allow the greatest facility for effecting the things which may be considered opportune (*se ben l'anno passato haveva il re fatto molto, et più di qual si sia altro Prencipe per il Duca di Savoia, con tutto ciò, non si poteva negare che non si fosse potuto fare d'avantaggio, et che dalla strettezza del denaro, nata qui dalla confusione del buon ordine nel governo di esso non si fosse patito molto impedimento, ma che nell' anno venturo si doverà procedere con regola tale che dovera prestare commodità grandissima di effettuare le cose, che saranno estimate opportune*).

He told me moreover that he is to go on to Piedmont to assure the duke of Savoy of the continuation of the good disposition of

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His Majesty, strengthen him to continue in his present determination not to allow himself to be frightened by threats, or to be deceived by the promises of other princes, in whom His Highness knows it is no longer possible to trust, and that he must maintain his present good disposition towards His Majesty and continue and increase his confidence and union with your Serenity. He hinted that he might possibly take instructions to renew the affair already promoted by Sir [Dudley] Carleton about a league and he added that, knowing the desire of His Majesty to serve every interest of your Excellencies, he had reminded him to give him orders to favour the affair of the Grisons. The king had replied that at the moment he did not know exactly what was being done or precisely what your Serenity desired, so that he did not quite see what commissions he could give, but if he was asked by your Serenity to perform any office which you might think useful, he would do anything most willingly, and he had directed the ambassador to use his efforts wherever your Excellencies might consider them useful, according to your will. I thanked him for the confidence shown in communicating to me instructions so important. I loudly praised the zeal of His Majesty in looking after the welfare of the princes confederated with him. With regard to the proposal for a league, I told him that I had nothing to say, as Sir [Dudley] Carleton had already heard from the Cabinet and the ambassador Foscari had reported to His Majesty upon the subject. I did not dwell upon the subject, but in the remainder of the conversation I took occasion to warn him that the manner in which it was necessary for your Serenity to treat was varied, and as the princes of Germany were numerous, unless their affairs are very well ordered and their obligations recognised, they would lose a great deal of time in their diet before anything useful could be done, but your Serenity had already in many ways shown your good disposition to His Majesty, and could execute everything necessary in a deliberation of the Senate, and no public declaration could add anything really essential or promote benefits which would at all counterbalance the suspicion and disturbance in the minds of others. I afterwards thanked him for putting his services at the disposition of your Serenity and assured him that your Excellencies preserved a lively recollection of the favours received from his Majesty and of his readiness to confer new ones: especially in the matter of the Grisons. As I knew that he might easily have occasion to see the Cavalier Salice or others with whom a knowledge of the affairs of your Serenity might be of assistance, I endeavoured to make him clearly understand how advantageous it would be for the public service, and especially for the Grisons, that your Excellencies are constant in fulfilling your obligations to your confederates and friends as appears in the case of the Swiss in particular.

I do not know if he will go to Zurich on his way to Savoy, but I understand that he is certain to pass through Berne, and possibly he will either promote or arrange the alliance of the two towns with the princes of the Union, if he finds that they are resolved to try it again. I discussed with him the current affairs between your Excellencies and the archduke's subjects. I gave him full



1616.

information about all that has happened, and in this and in everything else he showed the keenest desire to serve your Serenity. He told me in particular that when passing through Germany he would make use of the knowledge which he possesses to display the complete reasonableness and justice of the action of your Serenity, and he will use his best offices in every place, as he knows this to be the wish of the king, his master.

I thank your Serenity and your Excellencies for so kindly relieving my sufferings and commending my services, including me in the new regulation for the salary of ambassadors. It will be a great stimulus to me to fulfil my duty, and I will employ all my feeble powers in fulfilling your commands.

London, the 5 February, 1615. [M.V.]

[Italian.]

Feb. 6.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Constant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**172.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The English ship Royal Defence, which left here recently, laded here a hundred packs of silk of three months (tempo tre mesi) but the chief Jews, who are wealthy men, stirred up those who sold the silk, casting suspicion upon the good faith of the English merchants, and creating the opinion that once the ship had gone they would never be paid. Thus they were obliged to find the money before the ship left the port. They had to borrow it from the Jews in order to make the payment, at 18 per cent. interest. From what I hear from those who are well-informed English ships will not come here so readily, as the merchants of that nation have a considerable stock, both old and new, which they cannot sell very easily.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, 6th February, 1615. [M.V.]

[Italian; deciphered.]

Feb. 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savona.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**173.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

His Highness sent for me yesterday and told me of his negotiations with Milan up to that moment. He then read two letters<sup>o</sup> of Perona of the 3rd inst. He said he was determined to do his utmost to secure the disarming of the State of Milan, and would not make any agreement with them until he saw them disarmed. This was the advice given him by the king of England.

Turin, the 8 February, 1615. [M.V.]

[Italian.]

Feb. 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Candia.  
Proveditori.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**174.** PIETRO BONDUMIER, Proveditore General of Candia, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The captain of the great galleys arrived here three days ago, bringing sixty-six men whom he had taken in Syria (Sitia). The rector

\* "A letter which the duke of Savoy had newly received from Sig. Carlo Peron, a principal minister in Milan." Wake to Winwood, 13 Feb. 1615 o.s. *State Papers, Foreign, Sav*

1616.

writes me that they are from a pirate ship, which went towards the Paleo castro of Syria in this manner. About four months ago a burton or urca of considerable size was armed in the port of Livorno. It carried 84 pieces of artillery and various other arms, and 120 men, sailors and soldiers. Their captain was called John, a Fleming (*Gioranni Fiamengo*). After leaving Livorno they went to the sea of Cyprus, but fell in with no booty of importance. While they were in the port of Magra they were joined by a smaller ship called by them a Patachio, well armed with about eighty men. They went off together, but the berton ran on a rock at Cacamo, some distance from Cyprus, where the captain and thirty men were drowned. Eighty were recovered in the other ships which proceeded to Syria, and landed sixty-six men, as they could not maintain so large a number. These are the men brought here. I have condemned them to the galleys until further order, and enclose a list of their names.

I regret to state that this realm is surrounded by vessels of a similar character, which usually betake themselves to the ports of Syria, owing to the convenience of the port and water. They frequently carry a number of Turkish slaves.

Candia, the 8 February, 1615. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

List of the sixty-six men :

Gugliermo de Londri, Englishman.

Redolfi Londri de Guliermo Ogbal, Englishman.

Twenty-eight Italians.

Eight French.

Two Slavonians.

One German.

Seventeen Frenchmen.

Eight others.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 10.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

175. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, late Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I left Paris in extreme cold, with snow and ice, and continued my journey with great difficulty until I reached Lyons. To-morrow, after making the necessary arrangements, I shall continue on my way home. On the 29th the weight of the ice broke two bridges at Paris, on one of which are the shops and dwellings of the goldsmiths, and on the other those of others. Some persons were killed. I have seen the River Loire covered with ice and quite unnavigable, as are the other rivers. The snow is so high that it can only be passed with great labour. For these reasons and still more on account of the troops, I have hardly met with a single wayfarer or merchant out of all who are generally about; up to Montargis, a place 26 leagues from Paris, I met no troops worth speaking about, but from that town, which is strongly guarded, almost all the places are guarded, the open towns being badly treated by the soldiers. At Nevers the duke came in person to see me, accompanied by pages with torches and a great suite. He took

1616.

me to his palace and entertained me there until the following day, having constrained me to stay. He professed great devotion to your Excellencies and his esteem for me. He spoke of your quarrel with the archduke Ferdinand and asked me to make the offers which I shall mention. He spoke at length of the affairs of France.

The Marquis of Urfé, sent by the prince of Condé to the duke of Savoy, passed this way and on Saturday he expects to be at Turin. He fell in with me at a place near Tarare, where we exchanged greetings. He told me that the prince of Condé and all the other princes with him are determined to do all in their power for the service of your Excellencies; that he had express orders to see the Most Illustrious Ambassador at Turin and offer him troops in the present disturbances with the archduke. I thanked him in a suitable manner and said that your Excellencies preserved that good disposition towards the prince that he himself was aware of.

Lyons, the 10 February, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 10.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

176. ANTONIO FOSCARINI, late Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

In discussing the affairs of France the duke of Nevers spoke to me about the hopes of peace. Both the queen, and the princes seemed well disposed towards it; the duke of Epemon has lost her Majesty's favour through having advised the immediate consummation of the marriages, promising in Gascony three or four thousand gentlemen. These promises have vanished, and now his slight authority and following in that country are known. The Chancellor also is in manifest disfavour, and it is considered certain that the seal will be taken from him. The Commandeur Sillery, his brother, has left court in disgrace. In speaking of the conditions of the treaty he said he thought there would be some alterations in the council, although it had not been proposed. The prince would receive the governorship of Berry and the city of Bourges, upon condition that he gives up Guienne, which the queen will keep for herself or give to the king's brother; 400,000 crowns to pay the troops; a consideration of great value for the duke of Bouillon; that Longueville will be well advised to exchange his present governorship of Picardy for that of Normandy, which is better and he has many noble vassals there. Mayenne will receive money.

While I was with him a courier arrived with letters from Villeroi exhorting him to return to court to take part in settling the peace. I found him fairly well disposed towards the queen. He hopes that the council will be composed with the intervention of the princes. He had 6,000 foot and 1,500 horse enlisted almost without any pay, who maintain themselves at the cost of the country. He has reduced his infantry companies from 200 to 80 and the horse from 80 to 20. He gave these orders on the very day that I saw him. On the following morning he started in haste for the court. He told me that he would receive 100,000 crowns to pay his debts, and he would receive a like sum in advance of his pensions, which are 150,000 crowns a year. He offered more than once to serve your

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Serenity with all his forces against whomsoever you desired; he said he was a Venetian noble and bound to be so upon every consideration. Without the help of the king he had collected 6,000 foot and 1,500 horse and he had arms to supply twice as many. He asked if your Excellencies had given to anyone the charge exercised by the count of Vaudemont. You will do well to wait, as you can pick and choose. He spoke disparagingly of the count.

I gathered from his conversation that he wishes to see peace in France and proposes to consider a plan laid before him by some leading Poles, Hungarians and Germans to make a raid on the Turk and encourage risings in Greece and Albania.

A certain Captain John Renazé, whom I met at Nevers in the duke's house, who had a command of cavalry under Count Maurice, asked me to recommend his services to your Excellencies, promising to bring a number of light horse from Albania.

The baron of Moulins and the baron of Chaussée have also offered to bring two regiments and some horse for the same wages as paid to Italian troops. They said they could come by sea, or a good number could be sent gradually by land. I promised to send word to your Excellencies.

The marquis of Urfé told me that he did not believe that the conference fixed for the 10th would begin before the end of the present month; that the prince has always said that he wished the deputies of the religion to take part, which will mean ten or twelve days more; that he intends to give peace to France but upon condition that the late king's death is avenged, the Spaniards removed from the Government, the princes and good Frenchmen put in the council and the old friends of the crown conciliated. I have heard to-day that the Marquis has gone to Dauphiné to confer with Lesdigières, and will proceed to Turin.

In a few days some Huguenot deputies will be here on their way to la Rochelle to their assembly. They will there speak of the negotiations for peace, which is expected to take place very soon.

Lyons the 12th February, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 13.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

177. To the AMBASSADOR in SAVOY.

We approve of your prudent negotiations in impressing on the mind of His Highness our desire for his prosperity, and to confirm him in his intentions to carry out the treaty of Asti, especially upon the essential point of disarmament. We direct you to thank him for the confidential communication of what passed between him and the governor of Milan. We are glad that he adheres to the most prudent advice of the king of Great Britain, to insist upon this disarming; His Majesty promising to assist him whenever necessary.

Ayes 192.

Noes 2.

Neutrals 8.

[*Italian.*]

1616.  
Feb. 19.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disposci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**178. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Last week the king was expected to pay one visit to London, but as the pain in his feet increased he did not leave Newmarket, and he is not expected here now before Easter or thereabouts. He is eagerly awaiting the outcome of the negotiations in France, not only in order to see the fruit of his intervention, but for every other interest. An accommodation will be arranged to judge by the news that comes, as both sides are experiencing great difficulties in maintaining their troops, and since a free passage has been granted after the armistice, many have withdrawn to their homes. The first agreement upon this truce has been received with satisfaction in this court, as they consider it contains the principal point of the whole affair, namely to enter into negotiations with the assembly of Nîmes, which His Majesty would not recognize as a general assembly, although the heads of the assembly have in their possession letters and documents of the Court, issued previously, in which they were recognized as a general assembly.

M. de Courtenay complains a good deal that the prince of Condé has received no help or protection from any of the friends of the crown of France, saying that he alone was at present engaged in preventing the increase of the Spanish authority in France and in putting a stop to their vast designs to the prejudice of others, and that when matters have been settled in France, we shall soon see what the Spaniards have in their minds. That if the prince of Condé had received any assistance he would certainly have so regulated the king's council as to remove every danger that the Spaniards might govern France, or that they might keep it neutral while they increased their power in other parts. He does not seem greatly contented at the intervention of the king here in the settlement, saying that if the negotiations had not been instituted by him many more in France would have declared themselves in favour of the princes, but seeing an agreement in the course of being arranged they had been unwilling to declare themselves or to separate themselves from His Majesty. At present it did not seem to be difficult to arrange the articles, as it is thought that the princes will be satisfied with anything reasonable. Those of the religion will probably rest content with the observation of their edicts, and there will be no difficulty in the way of accepting the articles for the regulating of disorders and punishing those guilty of the late king's death, though many foresee that difficulties will not be lacking in the way of their execution. The court is exceedingly doubtful whether the withdrawal of the Commandeur de Sillery and the dissatisfaction shown by the Queen Mother towards the duke of Epèron are real or introduced to facilitate the accommodation, because the ambassador Edmondes writes to the king, and the partisans of the prince confirm it, that the Queen Mother is offended with the duke of Epèron because he promised her to do many things to prevent the progress of the princes, and he had not done these because His Majesty had been compelled to enter upon the present negotiations. This might have been avoided if the forces of the prince of Condé had not been kept hidden as well as the

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discontent of the kingdom. If these had been known beforehand, as they should have been, before rushing into the marriages, a remedy might have been provided.

In addition to this the Commandeur Sillery had induced the king's librarian, his dependent, to make some remarks to His Majesty and the new queen about his being fit to govern by himself and that it was not proper to suffer the authority of his mother. This being reported to the Queen Mother she had expelled the Commandeur Sillery from court and asked him to withdraw to Malta. When the chancellor desired to say something to the queen on his behalf, she interrupted him saying it was not a matter for negotiation as it was not a public but her own private and personal affair.

Those of the household of the French ambassador here, who is a son-in-law of the chancellor, say that the Commandeur Sillery left court voluntarily and of his free will, since as he had no employment there it was not fitting that his presence should cause any disturbance in the peace of that kingdom. This different version makes the other one more likely to be true, and many conjectures have been ventured upon the question.

The ambassador of Berne, who said many days ago that he had orders to return to France, is now leaving, both by reason of the affairs of his masters, for whom any blow at the interest and reputation of the chancellor would prove of great service, and also because of his favourable disposition towards the party of the princes. He professes that when the prince of Condé has made a settlement of both articles dealing with the punishment of those guilty of the late king's death and the regulation of the disorders in the government, the fortunes of the chancellor will have suffered a severe shock. He has been to call on the French ambassador, who complained that he had come to this realm to treat about the affairs of the princes to the prejudice of the interests of the Most Christian King. The ambassador of Berne complained that the French ambassador has told the king here that the Lords of Berne had deprived him of his charge; and thus there was considerable friction between them. It went so far that the ambassador of Berne said openly that the bad government of the chancellor was the cause of all the disorders of France, and the French ambassador retorted that as His Most Christian Majesty had replied to the proposals of the other in the name of his masters, that was the end of his commission. The French ambassador also complained about the letters written by the Bernese ambassador, who retorted that they had been intercepted contrary to the articles of the perpetual peace with Switzerland.

London, the 19th February, 1615. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 19.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

179. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The French ambassador transmitted to the ambassador of Savoy a letter of M. de Puisieux, stating that His Most Christian Majesty understood from the letters of his ambassador that the duke of Savoy complained to him, because the new governor of Milan

1616.

made fresh levies, and the Spaniards made no attempt to restore the places occupied or release the prisoners. That in spite of all these things His Highness must have patience as he would receive every satisfaction, since the intention of the governor of Milan, in spite of appearances, was only to strike a blow at the action of the marquis of Inoiosa, the late governor, so that at the beginning he had ventured to air his own opinions, but he will afterwards do what is proper and His Majesty will see to the execution of the treaty, will write to Spain and will do everything to secure the effecting of what has been arranged.

Here, with regard to the affairs of Italy, not so much concerning the execution of the treaty with Savoy as about the troubles on the frontiers of your Serenity, about the Uscochi, the ministers believe, as I am informed, what the ambassador of Savoy thinks, namely that the Spaniards wish your Excellencies to be occupied by the archduke, so that you may be the more reserved in interesting yourselves in the execution of the treaty with Savoy, or in other schemes of the Spaniards against the liberty of Italy.

Here the opinion is continually growing that there will be war in Flanders very soon, both with respect to Cleves and the other affairs of Germany, as every day discloses greater, not less designs on the part of the Spaniards; and a strong determination on the side of the States.

Quite recently the count of Ceuren, as dependent on the States of Guelders, laid before the council of that province some pretensions of his against the archbishop of Cologne for his district which he held in the country of Munster as bishop of that province. He obtained not only a sentence in his favour for the principal of those districts and for the fruits and interests so many years in arrear, but a good number of foot and horse to carry it into effect. With these he has already taken one place and the other is expected to surrender. This has caused the archbishop great dissatisfaction. The States attach the more importance to this because they wish to acquire the dependence of those lands in that country, as being very valuable to them.

I know that some Dutch merchants on this market are warned by those who can well advise them not to build in any way upon peace in their business, but to keep their goods as much at liberty as possible so that they may receive no harm by any rupture that may take place.

I also hear from Flanders that two ships were about to leave Dunkirk to levy new troops in Spain and that the archduke had made levies of 15,000 foot.

Six large ships, excellently provided with everything necessary, have gone to sea. They are sent by the company of merchants here to the East Indies.

London, the 19th February, 1615. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

180. To the KING OF GREAT BRITAIN.

The friendly disposition of your Majesty and the declaration in favour of our republic in the present question with the archduke about the Usocchi are worthy of your magnanimity and the justice of our cause. For this we return hearty thanks. Our sentiments

1616.

will be more fully expressed by the ambassador Barbarigo, whom we ask your Majesty to hear graciously in what he has to lay before you.

Ayes 167.

Noes 2.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

181. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

We are fully satisfied with your prudence in the matter described in yours of the 29th January and at the favourable reply which you obtained from the king, with a declaration in our favour in the present affair with the archduke. We direct you to request an audience and present the enclosed letter to him, of which we send you a copy, thanking him in a suitable manner. We also send you the enclosed information so that you may be able to answer His Majesty's questions, although the conditions are generally known, and you can add whatever else you think fit.

On the 5th inst. we wrote to the same purpose, directing you to see the king; we now send you a duplicate so that you may use it if the first did not reach you. In that case, in order not to present two letters to His Majesty, you will only give him the one written to-day.

To bring the story of events up to date, our troops, which were stationed at Meriana near the Lisonzo have removed to Fara a short way off, to reconnoitre and hold it, if they found it suitable and prevent the enemy from establishing themselves there, whence they might harass our troops. However our captains decided to abandon it, in order not to divide our forces. These faced the enemy on the banks of the river Lisonzo, when they withdrew to their quarters. In Dalmatia the Uscocchi continue to plunder vessels and animals, but they escape with all speed to their nests. Nothing of moment has happened recently, but forces are being increased on both sides. The negotiations at the Imperial court are troubled, new difficulties being raised by the archduke's party, who instead of consenting to an armistice, which was put in good train by the imperial ministers, simply think of breaking off the negotiations, Echemberg having been sent by the archduke to the court for that purpose.

We have sent the secretary Padavino to the Grisons and the Swiss to obtain infantry from those parts for the present emergencies, and some companies have already arrived in our State, as we are doing everything to make ourselves safe.

In the negotiations of Savoy with Milan, although it is given out that they are to procure an accommodation, yet the Spaniards think that the duke will not consent before the agreement between them has been carried out, as is fitting, by the complete disarmament of the Spaniards in the State of Milan.

We send this for your information so that you may impart it confidentially to His Majesty.

That the present be sent to England by express courier.

Ayes 167.

Noes 2.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]



1616.  
Feb. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci.  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives

182. ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*By letters recently arrived from Zante to the English merchants here we hear that many armed bertonns have left Tunis in Barbary to go buccaneering, the greater part of which have passed the strait of Gibraltar, and that those which had gone west had taken a large English ship, very rich, which was going from England on a voyage to Cartagena. This news reached Zante at a time when there were five English ships there, while two others were expected from Venice so that Sig. Garrai,\* the principal English merchant here, is asking that his ship called the Royal Exchange may be sent off to Zante so that it may be in time to join another, in which he is also interested, called the Royal Defence, as it is considered certain that these with the other ships of that nation will proceed to England in consequence.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 20th February, 1615. [m.v.]

[Italian; deciphered.]

Feb. 21.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci.  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

183. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The letter which Don Pedro will receive from the duke to send to Spain states that His Highness was compelled by necessity to arm, and asks for the king's favour. The duke showed me the letter to read, and laughed when I came to the latter part. He said he was willing to satisfy them, but they are mistaken if they expect him to worship them as he only worshipped God. From France he learned that their Majesties were very displeased at the proceedings of Spain, and their agent here has orders to go to Milan, and to insist upon the execution of the treaty. The Marshal Lesdiguières writes offering to come with 8,000 foot and 1,500 horse. The king of England displays the same spirit; his agent has instructions to go to Milan and make the strongest representations. If the republic means to keep her promise, she likewise must do something for me. Your Excellency ought to write home and induce the Signory to direct their resident at Milan to unite with the ministers of France and England in inducing the governor to disarm and observe the treaty. I told His Highness that I feared the offices of the republic at this time would do no good, and might even be suspect. The duke waxed wroth at this, and summoning Venua and Crotti, told them that I was excusing the republic from helping him. This was out of fear of the Spaniards. He attached more importance to the promise of Venice than to that of the others, because he knew that little could be hoped for from France, and England is far off and uncertain. He continued in this strain until at length I promised to write and ask your Serenity to instruct your resident at Milan to unite with the agents of France and England in favour of disarming and the execution of the treaty.

Turin, the 21st February, 1615. [m.v.]

[Italian.]

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\* Garway or Garraway.

1616.  
Feb. 22.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**184. PIETRO VICO, Venetian Secretary in Spain, to the Doge and SENATE.**

Some days ago a secretary arrived here from the king of England bringing letters from that king to his ambassador recalling him to that court. He has already taken leave of the king and will set out in a few days. The secretary has instructions to remain here and carry on negotiations for his master. He has presented his credentials. There are various rumours about this departure, those current at the ambassador's house give out that he has received some office at that Court as a favour; but your Excellencies will have the truth from a better source.

Madrid, the 22 February, 1615. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 22.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**185. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.**

The affair of the Uscocchi in the imperial court has grown steadily worse since the arrival of the Echemberg, the archduke Ferdinand's minister. He first opposed the articles for an armistice and raised other difficulties. The Ministers declared that they would go no further unless we promised the restitution of places. Our ambassador pointed out that it was not reasonable that we should restore places which concern our defence and safety, while they promised nothing on their side and raised every conceivable difficulty. Although we are aware that Echemberg simply means to break off all negotiations, yet our intentions are the same as they have always been. We are only holding these places for defence, yet we have instructed our ambassador at the imperial court that, if a promise is given in writing to root out the Uscocchi evil and it is executed within two months, we will immediately make restitution. We have told him to ask the nuncio and the ambassador of Tuscany to act as mediators in the matter.

We direct you to communicate this to His Majesty as a sign of confidence, so that our loyal purposes may be known, our only objects being defence and security.

We judge this office to be the more necessary because we understand that His Imperial Majesty has written letters to various princes, in which he says that he has taken arms for defence and to recover what we hold of the possessions of the house of Austria, while he says nothing on the head of the Uscocchi.

The like to Savoy, France, Spain, Milan, Florence, Mantua, Padavin and Naples.

Ayes 175.  
Noes 2.  
Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 26.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**186. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.**

In the last from Germany we are advised that a courier has been sent with letters of the emperor to the princes of Italy, declaring that he will defend the possessions of the house of Austria by force.

1616.

He is to pass by the Grisons, to whom they are writing the same thing, as well as to the Swiss, asking them not to send troops to the republic. He takes a similar letter to the governor of Milan, telling him to have his men ready. The archduke Ferdinand has arrived at court where the archduke Maximilian already was, who is said to have advised a breach.

Nothing of importance has happened. In Dalmatia the Uscocchi, favoured by the season, have made some booty, but we have captured a barque. In Istria our troops have plundered the archduke's cattle and destroyed two villages. Things point more to a rupture than to peace, so that the friendly declaration of His Majesty will be still more grateful to us. We direct you to inform the king confidentially that we have decided to hasten on the mission of Vincenzo Gussoni as ordinary ambassador to the Most Christian King, by way of Germany, with a special mission on the way to the count Palatine. You will add that to perform a like office with the States General of the United Provinces we have decided to send Giovanni Battista Lionello to the Hague, and if the king expresses a wish to add anything we shall be delighted at the favour. You will inform the ambassador of the States of the mission of Lionello to whom you will give full instructions, sending letters of credence as soon as possible. When he has fulfilled this charge he is to return to you unless some particular occasion requires his presence there. We will provide the money for the necessary expense. Besides his mission he must take note carefully of all plans and provisions made there; inform himself of the provision of powder, rope and other munitions of war with particulars of the price and carriage. He shall also ascertain, with tact, what number of infantry can be obtained from those provinces, with particulars of wages, the expense, the question of transport by land and sea and whether there be any captain experienced in warfare for our service, advising us of everything that may be worthy of our notice.

As we are in need of lead you will hold yourself ready to obtain some. We will advise you in the next letters of the ordinary prices and our wishes in the matter.

Ayes 169.

Noes 2.

Neutral 5.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 26.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

187. To the STATES.

Letters of credence for Giovanni Battista Lionello, who is being sent to them from England.

Ayes 169.

Noes 2.

Neutral 5.

[*Italian.*]

1616.  
Feb. 26.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

188. To COUNT MAURICE.

The like.

Ayes 169.  
Noes 2.  
Neutral 5.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 27.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

189. To the AMBASSADOR at TURIN.

We received your letters of the 21st on Wednesday the 24th. Two points require an answer. The first is the office which His Highness desires our resident to perform at Milan in conjunction with the agents of France and England; the second is the proposals of the marquis of Urfé on behalf of the prince of Condé and the duke of Mayenne. Upon the first you will inform His Highness that throughout the course of the negotiations at Asti we showed our desire to obtain for him a safe and honourable peace, and we shall do the same now by requesting the governor to disarm and execute that treaty, directing the performance of joint offices with his Excellency with the ministers of France and England. We praise the purposes of the duke and will help him as much as we can, while we expect a return on his side. For your information we enclose the letter we are sending to Milan.

You will tell the marquis of Urfé that he will be welcome here and thank the duke of Mayenne for his offers.

Ayes 128.  
Noes 1.  
Neutral 5.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 27.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

190. To the SECRETARY at MILAN.

In the negotiations between the duke of Savoy and the governor of Milan the principal point seems to consist in disarming and carrying out the treaty of Asti. The duke is working hard for this and has addressed himself to the courts of France and England. We understand that the agents of those crowns have orders to induce the governor to disarm and execute the treaty. The duke asks that you will join your representations to theirs; we direct you to do so, but not in the manner of a protest or in a way displeasing to his Excellency. You will give him the enclosed letter or not as you may see fit and as you discover if it will please the duke, whom we are especially anxious to gratify on this occasion. It is possible that the governor will declare that we are taking these steps more on our own account than on that of the duke, and it would be necessary for him to arm even if he were not armed already. In such case you will maintain the same moderation and tell him that we know of the desire of His Catholic Majesty for peace, that the cause of our arming is well known, and we preserve the greatest respect for His

1616.

Majesty, with similar courteous expressions, to display our upright intentions, especially in the matter of the Uscocchi.

Ayes 123.

Noes 1.

Neutral 5.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 27.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

191. To the GOVERNOR of MILAN.

We have so high opinion of the prudence of your Excellency that we have thought good to beg you to put the final touches to this affair, which will redound to the glory of His Catholic Majesty and the praise of your Excellency.

Ayes 123.

Noes 1.

Neutral 5.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 28.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

192. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*Yesterday I received your Serenity's letters of the 5th inst. with information and instructions upon the archducal matters. As the king was at Newmarket I sent at once to the Lord Chamberlain to obtain an audience, when I will present the letters sent me and fulfil my office with spirit and diligence. I will also take information about the munitions of war which your Excellencies may obtain from these parts, and the cost, as well as about the number of men who may be obtained. There are two regiments of English serving the States, and one of Irish, commanded by a son of the Earl of Tyrone in the service of the archduke in Flanders. I will obtain information about them and the treatment which they receive. They have always displayed great valour. This people is certainly not afraid of death, but they are much more afraid of any discomfort, and as they are great feeders and irregular in their lives they are very subject to disease (si sono dimostrati sempre pieni di valore, et certo questa nazione non ha havuto paura della morte, ben più tosto riesce maggior impaurita d'ogni incommodità et per esser di gran cibo et senza regola nel viver molto soggetta all'infirmità). Sir [Henry] Wotton, in speaking to me lately about the excellent disposition of the king towards the republic, said that His Majesty would grant permission very readily, and if your Serenity has any need of men or ships, you will find every convenience here. If your Excellencies propose to give me any instructions in this matter I will use all diligence to execute them in the best manner possible, so that I may send as many men as you wish from this island or the places surrounding it.*

*I promised myself great service from M. Cornelius de Vimes, whom I left at Coire on my departure, as he is equally well versed in the warfare and the affairs of that country, and in travel and sea-faring. His devotion to your Serenity will make him very useful in the question of soldiers, as that is his proper sphere, in which he has most experience.*

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*I will also give information upon current affairs to the ambassador of the States and to the other ministers of princes resident here, as I know this is the intention of your Serenity. I will use the news about the proposal for a league made by the duke of Savoy to your Serenity, and your reply for information only.*

London, the 28th February, 1615. [M.V.]

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Feb. 28.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

193. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I hear that His Majesty has received letters from Mr. Edmondès, his ambassador with His Most Christian Majesty, upon the affair of the Commandeur Sillery, that he endeavoured to remove the Queen Mother from the government, that the duke of Epèrnon, the President Bullion (*Buglion*), Father Cotton (*Pere Gotton*) and some others were of the same opinion as he, that they used to further their plan the confessor brought by the new queen from Spain, and other particulars. The Queen Mother was informed of this plot by a chamberlain of the king, whom they had induced to use his position with His Majesty to incite him with the idea of taking the government into his own hands, and not to allow himself to be ruled any longer by his mother. When the queen learned this she became very angry and sent for the ambassador Edmondès. She told him all these circumstances and said that she now knew the most prudent counsels which the king of Great Britain had given to her, and though she repented late for not having accepted them, yet it was not so late that she might not still provide for many things. She begged him to thank the king for all the kind warnings which he had given her in the past and which she begged him to continue in the future, as she wished to maintain every confidence and would govern herself by His Majesty's advice. That with regard to Edmondès himself, those with whom she was now better acquainted had always endeavoured to give her a bad opinion both of his person and his actions, but now she knew him to be a truly worthy man, whom she esteemed, and she begged him to negotiate freely with her in all things. She used many other expressions to testify to her esteem for the king and Edmondès and to show she had changed her opinion.

The same ambassador writes that the queen has written to the duke of Bouillon a letter full of similar ideas, that she has always known him for a true Frenchman, that she has always recognized the prudence of his actions, she begs him to advise and assist her; that in everything she desires to be ruled by his advice. He states that Her Majesty is to confer with the prince of Condé, that she had written to Don Pedro of Toledo to carry out the treaty with the duke of Savoy as the crown of France could not any longer suffer that treaty to remain void, in which French dignity and authority were so much involved. The same ambassador reported that after these things M. Lesdiguières would be very ready to succour the duke of Savoy if he received any offence from the state of Milan. He added that the ambassador of His Highness had communicated to him that the

1616.

duke, his master, had helped the princes with 100,000 crowns in this their need. But this is hard to believe, seeing the present state of affairs, and the expenses of His Highness; possibly it was said in order to incite the king here to some similar action, or if not this altogether, possibly His Highness has rendered some such help. I know that when Biondi saw His Highness in the name of his king, the duke in speaking of the affairs of the princes said that owing to his past expenses he was not able to do anything of importance, as even if he could afford a sum of 50,000 crowns, it would not have sufficed for the needs of the princes, though it would be a great matter for him. The minds and expectations of all are chiefly turned towards these affairs of France, but they are also anxious to know what will happen in Flanders in the spring, what Don Pedro of Toledo will do in the state of Milan, and how the affairs of your Serenity will proceed. It is thought that owing to the natural balancing of affairs in this world, the affairs of one part must necessarily provide a counterpoise to the other, practically everything depending upon the interests of Spain.

As two chests of silver of the ambassador Foscari have been detained at Dunkirk by the customs officers, I have sent for the agent of the archduke here to tell him that those officials, not being sure to whom those cases belonged, had detained them for the custom, and I asked him to write to Brussels, or wherever else he might think best, to obtain their release, using such courteous phrases as I judged suitable.

The day before yesterday the Spanish ambassador sent to tell me that the agent of Flanders had told him that I had sent to ask for the release of this silver of the ambassador Foscari; so that he, who desired nothing better than to have an opportunity to serve me, had sent to see if I thought fit that he should write or send an express person to Flanders, asking me to tell him what I thought. That it would all be done quickly, and I should soon be obliged. He accompanied this with the most courteous expressions and repeated his request that I would say what I thought and that everything should be fully done. I thanked him warmly and replied in fitting terms that if he would do me the favour to write I was sure that it would be all sufficient, as I knew the authority of his letters and the respect which His Highness has for him. I afterwards sent my secretary to thank him and to express the esteem of your Serenity for His Catholic Majesty. He expressed pleasure at this courtesy and detained the secretary awhile to talk with him. He made him sit down and entered upon many courteous expressions. He threw out the observation that the ambassadors of Spain here seek to get away quickly, but at Venice they stay willingly; that Don Francesco di Vera wished to return to die in that city, after having spent a long time there before; that Don Rodrigo Calderon, a very great personage, had chosen that embassy, although he had not gone there, and that the relations between His Catholic Majesty and your Serenity being so good he had always been anxious to do me a service, even though there had been some difficulty about ceremonies. He used other expressions indicative of his goodwill to which the secretary replied in the same style, saying that my greatest difficulty was to find sufficient occasions

1616.

in which to do him a service. After all this the ambassador began to speak about the affairs of the Uscochi and asked the secretary what news I had. He replied that he had heard nothing except that the forces of the archduke were increasing daily on the frontiers of your Serenity. The ambassador replied that it was necessary that these matters should be settled at all costs, that it was not right to afford protection to those who wish to disquiet the State of another prince, but that this evil example took its origin from those princes who had assisted the rising of the Dutch against His Catholic Majesty; that these were not matters of courtesy but that the affair of the Uscochi would certainly be arranged, because the Spanish ambassador resident at the Imperial Court wrote to him that the Emperor had very good relations with the ambassador of your Serenity, but that the archduke raised some difficulty owing to the damage received by him. However a settlement was necessary and it would certainly be made. To all this the secretary replied in a fitting manner about the damage suffered by your Serenity and the outrageous action of the Uscochi and the archduke's subjects both in the past and much more in the present.

The Viceroy of Ireland has been recalled to London by reason of the trial of the earl of Somerset, and the arrival of the ambassador, who is returning from Spain, is expected daily.

M. de Courtenay came to mass at the house here this morning. I have noted his remarks about present events in France. He told me that the queen has sent to Milan to obtain the execution of the treaty with Savoy, and he repeated several times, these are great matters. Whether the deeds will bear any relation to the words remains to be seen as in France they have now gathered together all the intellect of Italy, Spain and France; that the marshal of Ancre has fallen sick of mortification, is in disgrace with everybody and suffered a thousand griefs; he said that he wished to show himself a servant of the prince of Condé. When the prince has obtained all he wants, all differences will vanish in smoke together with the evils which have been so much advertised, but we must wait and see.

London, the 28th February, 1615. [m.v.]

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 28.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.

Lettere degli  
Ambasciatori.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**194.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

Acknowledges letters of 22 January. Has collected information as instructed. Will do what he can to get the book, but Foscarini himself tried unsuccessfully to obtain a copy.

London, the 28th February, 1615. [m.v.] *Contemporary copy.*

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 29.  
Senato,  
Segreta,  
Dispacci,  
Savonia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**195.** ANTONIO FOSCARINI, late Ambassador in England, and ANTONIO DONATO, Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

A courier of the duke of Savoy conducted me, Foscarini, to His Highness at Rivoli, who received me with extraordinary favour.



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On reaching Turin I received a present of fruit and confections from the duke and went yesterday to kiss hands. He again received me with extraordinary favour. We talked about my journey, of the state of affairs in France, of the good health of the king of Great Britain, at which His Highness expressed the liveliest satisfaction. He spoke for more than one hour about the difficulties of your Serenity, saying that he understood that they were increasing. The duke then said: As Sig. Foscarini is here with information of the state of this world and in particular of those parts from which we have the greatest hope of assistance, I think it well to state my position so that he may report my words to the republic. I perceive that the Spaniards mean to swallow everything. They now hope to give a severe shock to the Signory without themselves moving, as the columns of the Venetian dominion can alone offer resistance to the Spaniards. I offer to levy troops in France and in my own State to serve the republic, and by merely standing armed peace will be secured to all Italy. If the republic will bear the cost I will run all the risks. The republic is shut out on almost every side from receiving foreign help. English assistance by sea with ships and men would arrive too late, and I know that every English or French foot-soldier costs 30 crowns before he is in actual service, and these nations eat and consume a great deal.

We listened attentively to the duke's generous proposal, worthy of his warlike spirit, and promised to report it to the republic. The duke replied that his own idea was to drive the Spaniards out of Italy; that accomplished, he should be content.

Turin, the last day of February, 1615. [M.V.]

[Italian.]

March 1. 196. PIETRO VICO, Venetian Secretary in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

*The sympathies of the Spaniards are with the archduke Ferdinand in his dispute with your Serenity. If the war continues, it is thought to be certain that they will help him with money. The king, in speaking about this to the English ambassador in the council of State, could not dissimulate his dissatisfaction. He told him that the Venetians desire to obtain by arms what they could have by means of friendly negotiation. They have been led to take this line by their knowledge of the king's peaceful disposition, but when they break with princes allied with this crown, His Majesty will not hesitate to interfere.*

Madrid, the 1st March, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

March 1. 197. GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Secretary at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

This week I have seen Cardinal Sforza. In speaking of the affairs of France and Italy, he told me that everything would be arranged in Piedmont because Don Pedro of Toledo hoped to get the duke of Savoy to decide to give up the treaty made in the time

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of the marquis of Hinojosa, which he said had been considered so noxious in the Council of Spain that they had decided to destroy it at all costs. It was injurious to the reputation of His Catholic Majesty because other princes had been concerned in signing it, so that it was really more a league against Spain than a treaty. Above all it was not seemly that the king of England should interfere in the affairs of a Christian and Italian prince, because he is a heretic and schismatic and has nothing to do with this province; true theology could never suffer a new theology to be formed adapted to the ideas of princes and to interests of State. He told me that he knew for certain that Don Pedro is not acting at haphazard but under the orders of Spain, which will keep putting off the execution of the treaty until the duke renounces it altogether, after which he will obtain much more than is contained in the treaty.

I said I had understood that His Majesty had accepted the treaty out of regard for the peace of Italy and the word of the Most Christian king was also engaged. He replied that the marriages were not then effected; they were now in accord with that crown; the only difficulty was with the king of England and others, and the council of Spain would not suffer this.

Naples, the 1st March, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

March 7. 198. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

DOGE and SENATE.

The ambassador Foscarini left last Friday. Before he left the duke invited us to dine with him. After dinner he spoke about disarming the state of Milan. He was sure that the Spaniards would not lose the present opportunity of draining the financial resources of your Serenity. He said it was necessary for him to rearm, to make sure of Asti and fortify S. Piero. He would send to England to ask the king for help, and he begged your Excellencies for help also. He did not doubt but the King of Great Britain would do something, but that His Majesty depends greatly upon the action of the republic.

Turin, the 7th March, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

March 7. 199. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

DOGE and SENATE.

I have seen the duke and told him that the resident of the republic at Milan had instructions to join with the agents of France and England in asking for the execution of the treaty of Asti.

Turin, the 7th March, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

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March 8.  
Consiglio di X.  
Parti  
Secrete.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**200.** That the letters of our ambassador in England of 14 January last about the representations made to him by the ambassador of Savoy regarding the feeling of the French ambassador against him for getting help for the princes of France, and the doubts of our ambassador that his public letters are intercepted in Flanders, be sent to the Savii of the Cabinet for their information.\*

Ayes 16.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

March 8.  
Senato,  
Secrete.  
Disposci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**201.** ANTONIO FOSCARINI, late Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

After the audience given by the duke of Savoy to Donato and me, we waited two days to return the visits of the nuncio, the count of Vervaeke, the Master of the Horse, the archbishop of Tarantasia; the agent of England and other persons of distinction. This done, the duke again sent for us; we found His Highness awaiting us, to dine with him. At table we discussed various matters. Afterwards he detained the count of Vervaeke only, dismissing the rest. He showed us a letter from Switzerland speaking of the efforts to prevent the passage of armed forces to your Serenity; the money sent there by the governor of Milan for this purpose. He spoke of the importance of the pass, which must be acquired whatever it cost. He said he also had letters from Milan, with no resolution but only words and hopes. He knew quite well how prejudicial the slightest wavering on the part of your Serenity would be. The Spaniards aspire to swallow everyone, keeping them in a state of expense and anxiety. This could not continue and some decision must be made. The first course and the one he would most readily support would be to spend in a short time effectively what would have to be spent in the long run, and carry war into the state of Milan. He showed the ease of this; and exposed the defects of the citadel of Milan, saying that 4,000 Spaniards hold that State in slavery. If this course does not please your Excellencies, he will have to fortify Asti, so that it may not fall by surprise. To do this he must increase his forces by at least 5 or 6,000 combatants. As his country is exhausted he must look to your Excellencies for help, after that he will be at the disposition of your Serenity. The Spaniards will arrange peace with your Excellencies and His Highness in order to command the others, and in time all. If your Excellencies negotiate a peace it will be well to do so together. Nothing will be more helpful to the common service and the liberty of Italy than a good understanding. For this end alone he desired a defensive league for security in these and various other affairs. He expressed a strong desire for a complete understanding with your Excellencies and a dependence on your wishes. He knew thoroughly the evil intent of the Spaniards. He wished to see them

\* See at page 105 above. A copy of this resolution is found in Senato, Secrete, Comunicato del Consiglio de' Dieci.

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humbled. It was urgently necessary to fortify Asti and to have help to do it. In return he promised to make peace or war as your Excellencies may decide. He charged us to transmit all this to your Serenity. When we left he accompanied us to the door of the room, and afterwards warmly embraced both myself and the secretary Rizzardi.

I have left the ambassador Donato highly esteemed by His Highness and all the Court; he negotiates with remarkable prudence, displays great splendour and liberality and attends to his duties with the utmost diligence and assiduity.

Casal of Montferrat, the 8th March, 1616.

[Italian.]

March 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**202.** GASPAR SPINELLO, Venetian Resident at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Since my interview with the Cardinal Sforza I have met a leading noble, who is very favourable to your Serenity. He did not wish to be named, but he told me they will try and push their affairs in Italy with all the arts imaginable. He declared that their chief aim was to sow discord if possible between the duke of Savoy and your Serenity and the king of England, they will do their utmost to induce His Highness to renounce the treaty of Asti, and they will try and keep all the passes closed against your Serenity.

Naples, the 8th March, 1616.

[Italian.]

March 8.  
Consigli di X.  
Parti  
Comuni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**203.** That the jewels of the sanctuary and the armoury of this Council be shown to some English gentlemen, now in this city, on their travels.

Ayes 16.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[Italian.]

March 8.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**204.** GIOVANNI RIZZARDO, Secretary of the late Venetian Ambassador in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

Since I last wrote to your Excellencies from Dover on the 26 December nothing of moment has happened in the matter in which I am instructed. The journey was continued as I said it would be. However I must state that the ambassador Foscari, when we were entering the boat to cross the Po, at Casal of Montferrat, suddenly decided to travel alone by post. He had the horses taken to Bre, a place eight miles from Casal, and set off for Mantua accompanied only by Sig. Mario Marellimentil, a Genoese and his close friend who had been with him some months at London, and without a single servant. He left me with instructions to continue the journey with his property and household in the same boat, which we found waiting for us about ten miles from Mantua. The ambassador told me that he had been induced to make this resolve because he had received word from

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*Venice to beware of the state of Milan, on account of the governor, who is his enemy,\* and it was advisable for him to pass by there with the greatest possible haste. I must add that his departure was accompanied by some confusion, and did not take place with becoming dignity. I hope, however, that all will turn out well.*

*Basignano, a place of the Milanese, the 8th March, 1616.*

*[Italian ; deciphered.]*

March 11.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

205. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have received your Serenity's letters of 5 February last. I sought audience of the king and obtained it at Newmarket, a place sixty miles away from here. I had barely reached the ante-chamber to be introduced to His Majesty, when I received your other letters of the 20th sent by express courier. As soon as I saw the king I presented the second letters and thanked him, as instructed. I told him of what had happened since my last audience in the dispute with the archduke and the other things in my commission, pointing out how helpful it would be if His Majesty would inform his ministers, especially in Spain, of his knowledge of the justice of your Excellencies' cause and of his good disposition in favour of your Serenity. This would greatly increase the indebtedness of the republic towards His Majesty and would be very advantageous to you, because a declaration of his ministers and an intimation that he considered your Serenity's cause just and was displeased at the unjust wrong inflicted and the protection of a villainous and rascally race rather than the observance of promises frequently made by the emperor to the republic, which simply desires to preserve its own, would prove of great assistance not only because of his reputation and authority, but also by his goodness and prudence. I added that similar offices might prove useful in Spain on various accounts, but still more with the princes of Germany, and especially with the count Palatine whom your Excellencies esteem highly, particularly as you recognize his good disposition towards you.

The king listened to me attentively and said that he had already at a previous audience declared his full resolution, and he now confirmed absolutely the same thing. He then proceeded to discuss and gather information about the state of affairs and what your Serenity desired him to do. He told me that one of his secretaries would arrive that evening; he would give him the document and instruct him completely about the affair and of what your Excellencies think he should do and he would carry out the whole.

When the secretary Winwood arrived, I gave him the document for His Majesty and informed him thoroughly of the whole affair. He had evidently been very well informed before, though not so fully instructed as now by your Serenity. He told me they would write to Spain to notify that court of the dissatisfaction of His Majesty at the protection afforded by the archduke Ferdinand to

\* Foscari had met Don Pedro de Toledo at Paris when they were both accredited to the French court. On the night of 31st Jan., 1609, they quarrelled seriously upon the question of precedence. See this Calendar, Vol. XI, page 235.

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such people as the Uscochi, who are public thieves, and that he should prefer to favour them rather than fulfil the promises frequently made to your Serenity. That His Majesty will write in like manner to the Elector Palatine not only for himself, but for all the princes of the Union, and will complain of the action of the archduke. He will express to those princes his complete conviction of the justice of the cause of your Serenity and his disposition in favour of the interests of your Excellencies. He will charge Sir [Henry] Wotton to perform all the offices which are necessary. He told me further on his own account that he would acquaint the States with the good disposition of His Majesty. I thanked him for all and expressed our very great indebtedness to him.

I had decided to await the execution of all these things at Newmarket, although the secretary assured me that everything would infallibly be carried out, and that if I wished to see him again, he would soon be back in London. He told me that Sir [Henry] Wotton would be leaving to-day. Accordingly I decided to come back here immediately and speak to him about these affairs before he left. I have done this to a great extent, and will do so again, as he has postponed his departure until the beginning of next week. I told him of the great esteem for and confidence in the Elector Palatine and the other princes leagued with him, cherished by your Serenity on many grounds, but chiefly owing to their connection with His Majesty, your knowledge of their goodwill and the assurance that with the good offices of His Majesty they will do everything in favour of the affairs of your Serenity. That your Excellencies will always highly appreciate the declaration of their goodwill owing to the consideration possessed in Christendom by such princes, but that nothing would more increase the good feeling of your Excellencies towards them than these affairs with the archduke.

Sir [Henry] Wotton seemed pleased at hearing all this, and told me that he had pondered the same things, but he will be able to act much more effectively when he has received the commands of His Majesty, and he was happy that this would permit him to serve your Excellencies earlier, even before arriving at Venice, and he wished for nothing better than such an opportunity.

As the secretary Winwood told me that His Majesty had also written to the States, I desired, so soon as I reached London, to see M. Caron, in order to gather full information from him. I informed him of what had taken place both in the field and in negotiation, and asked him to send word to the States, as I was instructed to do so. I then spoke to him of the favourable disposition of the king towards the affairs of your Excellencies, of his conviction of the justice of your cause and everything else that might show confidence and incite the States to serve your Serenity.

Sir [Dudley] Carleton, who is going to start soon for his embassy in Holland, has been to take leave of me. He expressed a great desire to serve your Excellencies wherever he might be, and told me that in addition to his personal obligations he had a special paragraph in his instructions to act in the interests of your Serenity whenever an opportunity offered itself, and when he took

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leave of the king, His Majesty had told him that he was under a special obligation to serve your Excellencies, but in addition to that he added his own command. I thanked him, and acquainted him with the latest events in the matter of the Uscochi. He told me that he had had occasion to inform many of these affairs, and whenever he had a chance he would seize it to advance the reputation and interests of your Excellencies.

London, the 11 March, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

• **March 11. 206.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

What I wrote sometime since that the French ambassador had told me about negotiations for the marriage of the second Infanta of Spain to the prince here has not only been confirmed by others recently, but with the addition that the negotiations are far advanced. Since my return from Newmarket I have gathered from others that some negotiations are on foot, and in particular that Viscount Fenton, by the king's order, has interviewed the Spanish ambassador very secretly; this is interpreted as being chiefly upon this affair. The Spanish ambassador also goes to visit the queen, and last week he went very privately and remained almost five hours in conversation with Her Majesty. To-day he has been again for a long while; at first for some time he was entertained by some music, and afterwards stayed a great while with Her Majesty without anyone else being present. I hear that one of his household was seen to come out with some small picture under his cloak. This question has certainly not been brought before the Council, and some of the principal members, to whom this alliance would be most distasteful, persuade themselves, as at other times, that in spite of all negotiations it will not be easy to come to a settlement.

I have also ascertained that Viscount Fenton said that the Spanish ambassador had instructions to complain to the king about the injuries inflicted by your Serenity upon the archduke Ferdinand, but he did not wish to irritate His Majesty at the audience and had desired him to perform this office. I will obtain further evidence upon this and I will use all possible diligence that His Majesty may perform with the ambassador the offices promised to your Serenity as soon as possible, as it may easily happen that the ambassador, in speaking about such things to the king, may try to discover his intentions, and after first securing a hearing for what he has to say, may keep putting off what the king wishes to say to him with respect to your Serenity.

The ambassador of Savoy left to-day to go to the King at Newmarket. He says he is advised by His Highness that in addition to the 14,000 foot at present in being, the governor of Milan will have 4,000 Florentines, 3,000 Lucchese and 4,000 recruits, who are expected from Spain. In this state of affairs and in view of the disinclination shown by the governor to carry out the treaty of Asti, His Highness is making the same representations in view of his safety as he did to your Serenity.

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The ambassador of His Highness says very decisively, when he has an opportunity that the duke will never trust the Spaniards, that they must carry out the treaty of Asti completely. The king concurs in this opinion, *that your Serenity has written to me that His Highness will on no account receive new proposals.* The French ambassador says that his Most Christian Majesty has given very strict orders for the carrying out of the treaty of Asti, conformable to the information contained in the enclosed paragraph of a letter; but it is not thought that these representations will be so strong as the nature of the case requires.

From France they are daily expecting news of a complete settlement, but they expect that it will rather put a stop to the ravages of war in that kingdom than introduce a stable peace. It is said that the prince of Condé has declared that if he does not obtain what he wants in the treaty, he will return to camp and conquer it by arms.

M. de Courtenay also has gone to court after having received some letters from the prince of Condé to communicate to His Majesty the progress of the negotiations. But with all the hopes of a speedy settlement they will not neglect to maintain a good understanding with the princes if it does not take place, and even if it is arranged, the general opinion is agreed that the kingdom of France cannot long continue at peace.

The mission sent by your Serenity to the Swiss and the Grisons has been very well received here, especially as regards the secretary Padavin, who has such knowledge and experience in those affairs.

From Holland comes the news of the marriage of count Henry of Nassau to a daughter of the Landgrave of Hesse, encouraged and arranged by the States. By this they will still further cement their interests with those of the princes of Germany. The Spaniards have become somewhat uneasy lest with the forces acquired by the new Hanse league they may attempt the recovery of Wesel.

The margrave of Brandenburg continues to levy troops on his own account. The levies made at present by the archduke Albert amount to 8,000 foot.

London, the 11 March, 1616.

*[Italian; the part in italics deciphered.]*

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

207. Extract from a letter written from Tours on the 20th February last.

Their Majesties have charged their resident at Turin to go to Milan to assure the governor of the disarmament, as the duke of Savoy and the governor had differed upon this point. They have at the same time written to Spain to ask that Don Pedro of Toledo may give credence to the said M. Mangeun, to facilitate and abbreviate the said disarmament. This expedient has been considered the shortest and most suitable to bring about a settlement of these affairs, provided that the parties are as anxious and as willing as they profess to be.

*[French.]*

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

208. Translation of the above.

*[Italian.]*



1616.  
March 11.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives

**209. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

From information which I have taken about the munitions of war of this country, the powder may be worth about 14 ducats the hundred, and the saltpetre, I am told, is the same price, but with this difference, that the hundred of saltpetre here is of 112 pounds, answering to 108 pounds according to the reckoning of Venice, and the simple hundred by which powder is sold answers to 97 pounds according to the reckoning of Venice. I am informed, however, that it will be difficult to obtain a large quantity of these commodities here, but that they can be obtained more easily in large quantities from Holland. I am therefore waiting for information.

With regard to rope, they use that of Flanders here to a great extent, which is worth about 26 Venetian pounds the hundred. The rope made here, which is a good deal better, may cost about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ducats the hundred of 112 pounds. Owing to this difference I have thought it expedient to send your Serenity a sample of both. The freight in Holland costs 10 ducats the cask containing 2,000 pounds of stuff. Here it costs 14, but the security of Holland will run to 8 per cent. while on English ships the rate is now 5 per cent. for Venice. In my next despatch I will send your Excellencies detailed information of the cost of troops and the journey, as on my return to London I did not find in the city the person from whom I expected the information, after instructions given when I left. I have paid 200 ducats to Giovanni Rasper, the courier, as he had no money to return with. Your Excellencies may reckon it in his account.

London, the 11th March, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

March 11.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**210. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.**

The duke of Savoy has recently informed us that the agents of France and England had orders from their king to go to Milan, and beg the governor to carry out the treaty of Asti especially in the matter of disarmament. His Highness asks us, in view of the fact that our ambassador signed this treaty, to direct our secretary at Milan to accompany those agents and perform the same office with them. We have agreed to this and sent orders to the secretary. They have not yet gone, however, and no further particulars have reached us. We direct you to impart this information to His Majesty as a sign of how much we value his labours for peace, and his efforts for the liberty of the powers friendly to him.

There is a report here that the States have bought the claims of the Margrave of Brandenburg to the Duchy of Cleves, or have acquired it in another way. That for this cause they are arming strongly and great commotions must follow in Flanders. We are sure that you will employ your advantageous situation, so near the country and by communicating with the ambassador of the States, to obtain information about this.

Our last letters from the secretary Padavino are of the 4th inst. from Coire. He had not then been able to speak with the chiefs of

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the leagues, but the information which he gave to the communes about our affairs with the archduke was well received, and they seem inclined to grant our requests. If the governor and the Beitag (*Pitac*) show the same disposition, we may hope for good results. We hear that 270 men have been induced to serve by the secretary. You will communicate this to His Majesty as a sign of confidence, so that he may take what action he sees fit, knowing the influence that he has.

The negotiations upon the archducal affairs vary daily, according to the differing opinions of the imperial and archducal ministers. We remain firm upon the first point, that they remedy the Uscochi grievance and free us from this ancient pest. For the rest we will give every satisfaction. They on the other hand propose the restitution of the places which we hold in Friuli in their territory, occupied for our defence, will promise no remedy for the principal wrong and showed signs, on the 26th ult. of wishing to continue the breach; so that ravaging is taking place on both sides. Our troops in Istria, after fourteen hours' bombardment, have taken a walled place called Antignana. In Friuli the Proveditore General is attacking Gradisca. It has a good garrison and receives help from Goritz; but it will be pressed hard to prevent the enemy molesting us in that part. On the other hand the archducalists have devastated some towns, have fortified themselves in a post in Sagra, and the Uscochi in Dalmatia have done a great deal of damage by robberies in those islands and territories. You will use this information as you think best for our service.

We direct you to inform the ambassadors of the Palatine and of the States of the condition of our dispute with the archduke Ferdinand, and you will do the same to any agent of the king of Denmark or of any of the other powers that there may be, but especially Denmark, as being related to His Majesty.

Ayes 162.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

March 12.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

211. To the AMBASSADOR with the DUKE OF SAVOY.

The duke's ambassador in London has approached our representative there in the manner which you will see by the enclosed copy of the ambassador Barbarigo's letter of the 16th January last. The duke may speak to you about it and in such case you will reply substantially as the ambassador Barbarigo did. You will ascertain the truth of the information given and how it was brought.

Ayes 162.

Noes 2.

Neutral 3.

[*Italian.*]

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March 14. **212.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the  
 Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Dispacci,  
 Savoia.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.

DOGE and SENATE.

The duke told me that he did not know what to decide. He thought of availing himself of the offer of your Serenity to approach the governor, but the agent of France is entirely Spanish and instead of improving matters he would only make them worse. He was compelled to ask your Excellencies for some help, and he hopes for something from England.

Turin, the 14th March, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

March 14. **213.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the  
 Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Dispacci,  
 Savoia.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.

DOGE and SENATE.

They are clearly prepared here to go to any extreme rather than lose their honour and liberty. The duke has sent in great haste to France, and an express person will leave to-morrow for Lesdiguières. He will also send to England, and will leave nothing undone for his defence.

Turin, the 14th March, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

March 16. **214.** To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Deliberazioni.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.

The grand duke of Tuscany and the duke of Mantua have communicated by their representatives here the orders received from the emperor to interpose for an accommodation of our dispute with the archduke Ferdinand. We have thanked them for the offer, feeling sure that they would consider the justice of our cause in wishing to free ourselves from the pest of the Uscochi. We have declared our willingness to accept any reasonable settlement which will provide for our security and honour. We send you this for information, chiefly to make known that if the archduke's intentions are the same as our own all this affair may be easily arranged.

The like to Rome, Germany, France, Spain, Savoy, Milan, Naples, Coire, Zurich.

Ayes 167.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

March 17. **215.** To the SECRETARY PADAVIN in the GRISONS.

Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Deliberazioni.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.

We leave it to you to decide whether to pass to the Swiss to treat about levies, and if you can do so without upsetting the arrangements where you now are. The English ambassador, who is coming to reside with us and who has already started, may travel through those parts, and our ambassador Foscari, while he was residing at that court, told us that he intended to do so, and assured us that he had instructions to assist our interests.

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Accordingly, when he arrives, you will arrange to see him and receive the fruit of the dispositions and promises of that king.

Ayes 161.

Noes 3.

Neutral 3.

[*Italian.*]

March 18.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

216. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

Our troops besieging Gradisca have made a breach and prepare for the assault. The enemy seeing this sallied out, but were repulsed, losing fifty men; we lost two. In Istria nothing has happened since the surrender of Antignana. The Proveditore General proposed to attack Zetnin, but has not done so as he heard it was so strongly garrisoned, and that the archduke's forces were gathering in other parts on the frontiers of the province. We have no news this week from Dalmatia. We have chosen a Proveditore for beyond Menzo and we shall choose another for this side. We send you this for information.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Savoy Milan, Naples, Florence, Mantua, the Grisons.

Ayes 145.

Noes 5.

Neutral 20.

[*Italian.*]

March 18.

Senato,  
Terra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

217. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

We have previously written asking you to obtain information of the cost of lead and powder, and we are sure that you will use all diligence in this. We now repeat this and add that if you find anyone in England or in Holland, where we understand there are conveniences for this, who will undertake to bring to this city and consign to the Proveditori of the Artillery two hundred thousand of fine powder, brand 6, you will accept it for the price you will agree upon, which should be at 20s. for the light Venetian lira at the rate of exchange, obtaining what advantages you can, and fixing a time limit for the delivery and other particulars. You will advise us and the Proveditori of the Artillery of what you arrange.

Ayes 145.

Noes 5.

Neutral 20.

[*Italian.*]

March 19.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

218. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

In conformity with what I arranged at Newmarket with the secretary Winwood, His Majesty sent letters to Sir [Henry] Wotton to take to the Elector Palatine for himself and for the whole Union of the princes of Germany, and a commission to treat with them upon the current affairs of your Serenity with the

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archduke Ferdinand, giving him instructions first to inform them of the depredations committed by the Uscochi for long years, the efforts of your Excellencies to free yourselves from this pest in a peaceful way, and the fact that the justice of your cause has led the Imperial Court to promise a remedy, but that these promises have never been sincerely performed. Secondly, that His Majesty, not only on this account, but by reason of his singular friendship, interest and confidence, desires every success for the affairs of your Serenity, and can receive no greater satisfaction from his friends than to concur with him in acknowledging the same justice and in declaring the same goodwill towards the republic. Finally that it is not in the interests of the states of Germany to allow the princes of the House of Austria to dispose and arrange matters according to their good pleasure, and it may be to their advantage that a demonstration of good-feeling towards your Serenity should oblige you to reciprocate, and will link them more closely together for the common benefit of all parties.

Sir Henry Wotton has been to see me and told me he had received such orders, and to tell me that he was to introduce these matters in the way that would be most gratifying to your Serenity. He has instructions from the Court to insist chiefly upon the point of the benefit to the Union of mutual expressions of esteem, the more so with the republic because at other times the princes of the Union have had an agent at Venice, and he proposes to persuade them to do this again, as the present time is much more propitious than the past to have a good understanding, and the Union will be much more solid, more regulated and greater by having ministers to negotiate its affairs.

I thanked them both for His Majesty and himself, and told him such news as I thought most necessary, expressing the esteem of your Excellencies for the Elector Palatine and all the princes of the Union, and how gladly you would welcome their agents and ministers at any time. I shall see Sir Henry Wotton again before his departure, and I shall again make all the representations which will best serve your Excellencies.

I have been to visit the queen, who sent for me, and listened readily to the narration I made to her of these affairs. I did this of set purpose, because the Spanish ambassador, who visits her very often and does everything to make himself agreeable to Her Majesty, supplies her with information which is much more in conformity with his own tastes than with the truth. He has already complained to Her Majesty and some of the chief persons of this Court that your Excellencies have occupied various places of the archduke Ferdinand, and where they have no knowledge of the matter he enlarges more fully and finds it easier to persuade them to accept his version of the case. However, I have acquainted Her Majesty with the justice of the cause of your Serenity and with your ordinary disposition towards peace, but that the necessities of self-defence force you to attempt to put an end to this plague and to the barbarous proceedings of the Uscochi, and to ask for the fulfilment of the promises so often made, to root out this evil. I added other particulars which I thought suitable, saying that your Serenity desired nothing better than that all the princes should be well informed of this affair, but especially those who are known to be so

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well affected as Her Majesty and her brother the king of Denmark, as you were certain that they would recognise the justice of your cause.

Her Majesty received my representations graciously, especially as regards the king of Denmark, and she thanked me warmly in his name for the confidence shown by your Serenity, repeating several times that she would do everything in her power for the service of the republic. She thought it was perfectly in the right and it was folly in the archduke not to fulfil his promises. She was certain that the king would continue in his usual friendly disposition towards the republic and possibly he might prove a means of settling all these things. As I could not get rid of the idea that the ambassador of Spain might touch upon a similar question, in order to place the position of the archduke in a favourable light, I told the queen that the friendship of His Majesty increased daily and so much the more increased the indebtedness of your Excellencies, and it was certain that the king would leave nothing undone in the interests of the common peace and a favourable settlement of the affairs of your Excellencies. These were so clearly arranged that it was unnecessary to speak at length upon them, as there was only one thing to do, namely that the archduke should fulfil his promises, and root out the evil. This was the whole affair in a nutshell. It was important that the archduke should carry out his promises, as your Serenity would no longer be satisfied with fresh promises but very reasonably required that the previous ones should be effected. Her Majesty replied that your Serenity was perfectly right and was acting with great prudence. She felt sure if the archduke was not mad, he would settle matters, doing what your Excellencies desired.

London, the 19 March, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

March 19.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives

219. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The ambassador of Savoy had audience of the king at Newmarket and told him that the duke had little hope of seeing the treaty of Asti executed as he desired; that the governor of Milan had 14,000 foot and was expecting more from Florence, Lucca and Spain; that if the Spaniards contemplated fresh attacks upon His Highness or asked him for a free passage he would have to think of his defence. He therefore begged His Majesty, in conformity with the excellent disposition which he has always shown, and for the general good, to be warned of this danger and to inform His Highness *what assistance he would promise to guarantee his states.*

The king listened to the ambassador with every sign of friendliness, entered upon a general discourse about their various affairs, and referred the full decision upon the proposals made to the reply which he would cause the secretary Winwood to give. The secretary afterwards fully confirmed the perfectly friendly disposition of His Majesty towards the duke of Savoy; that he would act in such a manner as to secure the complete effectuation of the treaty of Asti, which the king of Spain desired to be observed, by what his ministers wrote from the Spanish court; that he

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does not believe that the governor of Milan will demand a free passage at this moment or make any other attempt upon His Highness. *He rather believed that he had collected his forces in order to afford some support to the archduke Ferdinand in his dispute with your Serenity. If they demanded the passage or entered in any other way into the State of His Highness, His Majesty would assist the duke and secure help from the other princes his friends, such as the States, the princes of Germany and any others with whom he had influence. That he had given instructions to Sir [Henry] Wotton to pass through Piedmont on his way to Venice, and thence to Milan and Mantua, and to endeavour in every way to obtain satisfaction for His Highness.*

The ambassador replied that His Majesty should be the more anxious for the disarmament of Milan and the execution of the treaty of Asti, because in addition to the duke of Savoy, your Serenity also was involved. To this the secretary replied that His Majesty had at heart the interests of your Serenity, and the duke and he wished to employ his forces for both. He wished to say that their forces were intended to cause some annoyance to your Excellencies, whom His Majesty would not fail to warn to make every proper provision, and if it were only on account of the archduke Ferdinand they would not at present think of taking them out of Italy or of securing a passage through the state of His Highness. However, for the benefit of all, Sir [Henry] Wotton would endeavour to obtain a complete disarmament, and His Majesty desires to see this affair settled very shortly, I know that in France also His Majesty has given express orders to his ambassador to keep in mind the execution of the treaty of Asti in the accommodation of the princes.

The ambassador of Savoy, besides the special office which he had to perform also referred to some words which had been said *about the marriage of the prince to the Infanta of Spain. To this His Majesty replied that some proposals for a marriage had been made to him from Spain, but he had replied that some negotiations had already been begun with France and he could not listen to any other proposals before those negotiations were completed. If those came to nothing he would be ready to listen to any other proposals. He afterwards assured the same ambassador that this was what had taken place with Spain, but before things were quite settled in France he would have no close negotiations either with France or with Spain, but when they were settled he would think of preparing what was opportune and in any case, before deciding he would first inform and consult the States and his other allies. M. de Courtenay has stated that in France they have a secret promise in the marriage concluded not to marry the second princess of France to the prince here. The prospect of a marriage with Spain has been much discussed here, especially in the queen's court and in the city among the Catholics who hope for great benefits and the advancement of religion. The Spaniards are glad at the circulation of these rumours and hopes, as by preserving the friendship of some they may become more popular in the country and increase their authority at Court.*

London, the 19th March, 1616.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

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Senato,  
Secreta,  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

220. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England,  
to the DOGE and SENATE.

As I wrote in my last despatch, M. de Courtenay went to find the king at Newmarket when he had audience of His Majesty. He represented the state of the negotiations of the prince of Condé for an arrangement with their Most Christian Majesties, and showed a letter of the prince of the 21st ult. from Loudun, in which he first expresses his great indebtedness to His Majesty, and goes on to say that the negotiations had been prorogued for some days in order to await two deputies of the Huguenots, without whom he would not begin anything; that together they formed an assembly more numerous and more important than had ever been seen in France. M. de Candale and M. de Châtillon, had recently arrived there and the duke of Vendôme would come in a couple of days, his baggage having already arrived. His declaration, although somewhat late, had greatly increased the reputation of his party; he had 10,000 men, who crossed a river in order to unite with the other forces of the prince; they had boats and every convenience. A herald had come in the king's name to intimate that he ought to dismiss his troops and not proceed further, but he replied that he was the servant of His Most Christian Majesty, and had assembled them for no other purpose than to serve His Majesty under the command of the prince of Condé, and he could not give a reply before consulting him. He distinctly states that all under him are perfectly united and determined to listen to nothing but the general good, as everyone knows that if affairs generally are in a favourable state his own condition will be better in his own particular station. With regard to other particulars he refers to what M. de Courtenay will have heard from his own brother. After M. de Courtenay had shown this letter to the king, he made two proposals, one that if an agreement was not or could not be made, he should declare what help he was willing to afford the princes. The second, that if an agreement was made the princes would of necessity be separated and their troops dispersed. As the prince of Condé, who has hitherto borne a heavy burden for the general good to countervail the machinations of Spain, after the conclusion of the treaty ought not, as a good subject to continue to have intelligence and negotiations with foreigners, then if the king's person and the authority of the government remain in the hands of persons who wish to advance the interests of Spain, they may twist things to their mind. That they may not do so the princes of France will be obliged to put an army in the field, but the princes united with the crown of France and His Majesty in particular owing to his greatness and influence, as free princes who may secure their own interests without rendering account of their actions to to anyone, ought to have a good understanding with each other and offer a united opposition to the Spanish attempts and see that France does not return to a government conducted for the benefit of Spanish interests. When once good order has been established in French affairs none of the other powers need fear the greatness of the Spaniards any more than in the time of Henry IV, but when the opposition of France is removed or perverted in favour of their interests, everyone is obliged to watch over his own affairs with much greater danger and difficulty than would be the case otherwise if care were taken in securing the good governance of France.



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His Majesty heard all this argument and commended the care of the prince of Condé for the good governance of affairs. He said he hoped that an accommodation was sure, and he would not abandon its honest execution and their safety after he had secured it. The princes, his allies, would do the same and would exert themselves in the same interests, desiring the same general well-being as His Majesty.

M. de Courtenay said that his brother wrote to him that they were not altogether satisfied that the expulsion of the suspect persons from court would be done sincerely and while the Chancellor remains near their Majesties he is quite capable of gathering together his scattered flock once more. Some say that the Chancellor intends to have himself made a cardinal, in order to retire with dignity, but others say it would simply be in order to increase his authority and dignity in dealing with affairs. The partisans of the princes say that 15,000 men have died on the king's side, so that they are greatly distressed.

London, the 19th March, 1616.

[Italian.]

March 25.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispositi,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

221. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*In conformity with the instructions of your Serenity, I have not failed to procure what information I could about the troops which may be levied from these kingdoms. With regard to the pay, there may be but little difference, whether they are natives of Ireland, Scotland or England. The States among many other excellent institutions, have a perfect economy of war; they only give their soldiers about 32 reals a month, reckoning a month at forty-two days, but with the admirable provision that they give various advantages in the matter of provisions and clothing, which depend upon the condition of the neighbouring country and upon the certainty of engaging them for a long while. They also keep them in good health by maintaining a uniform diet, comprising an abundance of flesh and the use of beer, and by the facilities they give for exchanging and returning.*

*The duke of Savoy, during his last difficulties, negotiated for levying 4,000 foot here, under four colonels and one general for them all. The payment with which the levy was negotiated amounted to about three gold crowns of France, but what chiefly deterred His Highness from making this levy was the heavy initial expense for buying arms and clothing for them, the hire of vessels and a profusion of victuals. The voyage to Venice is considered much longer and much more difficult, since it is necessary to coast round Sicily, and especially in summer, when owing to the calm seas, high ships are sometimes exposed to the attacks of galleys. This danger causes a great expense in order to arm the vessels sufficiently for defence, and because, owing to the length of the voyage, it is necessary to find something more than benches for the soldiers in the ships, who would fall ill owing to the close and uncomfortable quarters. Their sufferings might render them unserviceable for a long time after their arrival. I will endeavour to obtain more exact information by questioning various people.*

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I have received word from Amsterdam that powder is very dear there at present, as it would be 46 of the florins of that country the hundred, making 112 lire and answering to 108 Venetian, that is 18 ducats 9 grossi for the Venetian hundred. The saltpetre was worth 49 florins, answering to 19 ducats 14 grossi the hundred pounds by Venetian weight, and there might be about 6 per cent. to pay for export duty; but when a quantity of saltpetre arrives, made by distilling the sea water, as is the usual way, the price will become reasonable. The secretary may have more particular information, but in any case, if the prices are so high, provision might be made here in England.

Rope is worth 8 florins the hundred, that is 3 ducats 5 grossi. Lead, upon which your Excellencies instructed me to obtain information in your last letters, might be worth about 50 ducats the fother here at present, answering to some 2,000 Venetian lire. It is generally about 7 ducats here for the extraction, besides minor expenses.

London, the 21st March, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

March 23. 222. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

Our troops remain before Gradisca, and are preparing to capture the place. The enemy made a sudden sortie at dawn the other day to the number of 600, and succeeded in inflicting some damage. In Dalmatia our General has captured Mosselenizze, not far from Fiume, after two days' bombardment.

The like to Rome, Germany, Spain, Savoy, Milan, Florence, Mantua, Naples, Grisons.

Ayes 162.

Noes 1.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

March 23. 223. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

Don Andrea Manriquez has arrived in this city, sent by the governor of Milan. He has been in the Cabinet, and expressed the pain he felt that the dispute with the archduke had been carried so far. He asked that a more easy road for negotiations might be found, pointing out the danger of the affair in the present state of things in Italy. We replied, as you will see by the enclosed copy, and we direct you to inform His Majesty as a sign of confidence.

Ayes 162.

Noes 1.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

March 23. 224. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

The affair of the duke of Savoy with the governor of Milan has come to a rupture, because, although His Excellency, on arriving in Italy, was all courtesy and promises, he has abstained from

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executing the treaty of Asti, and has raised so many difficulties that they have not been able to come to any arrangement. The duke desired by means of President Gives to discover his true intentions, upon which the governor declared that he would not carry out the treaty unless the duke entirely submitted to the favour of His Majesty, asked pardon for past offences, and left his fortresses as they were in the time of Philip II. In fine, he wished to convey that he was no longer a free prince, but absolutely dependent upon their will. This proceeding seemed hard to His Highness, as it must to everyone, and he has begun to arm again to defend his liberty and honour from such violence. We are certain that His Highness will inform His Majesty, who will be greatly displeased, because it was chiefly upon confidence in the promise of himself and of the king of France that the duke consented to the treaty and laid down his arms. At the same time we instruct you to communicate this to him as a sign of confidence and esteem, as we are sure he will recognise the serious nature of the affair, and will make the strongest representations to France and Spain that the treaty may be carried out, and that the disarmament may be effected, which is the crux of the whole matter. The maintainance of these troops on our confines not only causes the duke uneasiness, but also foment the plans of the archduke's subjects who promise themselves help from that quarter. We on our part will accept any reasonable settlement, provided we are freed from the pest of the Uscochi; but so long as they are supported by the archduke, we are compelled to reply with hostilities. We beg His Majesty to weigh all these matters and to consider the welfare and safety of this province. As we are attacked by the archduke, and exceedingly suspicious of the Spaniards, we are forced to defend our State and incur heavy expenses, so that we are the more in need of his help and a declaration in favour of our cause such as he has given at other times. We are certain that this would produce the best effect, will be worthy of his glory and of great service to Christendom, as it would assist not only the duke and ourselves, but all to whom any disaster in Istria would be prejudicial, and who might suffer from Spanish designs elsewhere. If His Majesty and the princes of Germany will interest themselves as they see fit they will confer a great benefit and do much for the general peace and tranquillity. You must speak to His Majesty substantially in this manner, so that he may come to some decision upon the affairs of His Highness and ourselves. You will also speak about this to the ambassador of the States, omitting the request for help.

The secretary Padavin is in the country of the Grisons and has already sent a certain number of infantry from those parts, not by public licence but with tacit permission. He has endeavoured to do the same in Berne and Zurich, but so far we have not much hope there. If the ambassador of Berne arrives, whom His Majesty urged to assist us, and if the ambassador Wotton uses his efforts to the same purpose, as we understand he is to, we may prove successful.

We do not repeat our instructions of 26 February and 11 March last to show confidence to the count Palatine, Denmark and others,

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and to take information about troops, munitions, etc., because we are certain that you will execute them punctually.

Ayes 162.

Noes 1.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

March 24. **225. PIETRO VICO, Venetian Secretary in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

The English ambassador left recently with a few followers. He embarked at San Sebastian, where a ship was awaiting him.\* The rest of his household remains here with his wife, who will stay on until the middle of next month.

Madrid, the 24th March, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

March 24. **226. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.**

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

We have thought it well to send you a copy of the exposition of the marquis Manriquez so that you may the better understand the reply and represent it to His Majesty. There is no progress in the negotiations, because a reply is awaited from Florence and Mantua. We believe that Echemberg, the archduke's minister, is troubling the negotiations, as he has done hitherto. Facts at any rate show that they desire a rupture, as they are sending Colonel Marada to levy five companies of cuirassiers, and Colonel Stuard will soon have 3,000 foot. The archduke Maximilian had sent orders to Colonel Pethen to raise a regiment of infantry and to the Cavalier Tump to enlist 500 horse, so that everything points to war. But the most serious matter is the money provided by the Catholic ambassador, as we are advised that he supplied 150,000 crowns for these purposes. They thought that by such means they would secure advantages in the negotiations for the succession of Ferdinand to the estates of the emperor. You will make use of this as you see fit.

Ayes 170.

Noes 3.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

March 25. **227. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

After sending off my last despatch I received your Serenity's letters of the 26th ult. with instructions about current affairs with the archduke Ferdinand. I imparted my commissions to the secretary Winwood, who came to visit me soon after, to notify the king of what had taken place and to ask for an audience of His Majesty. He told me that the king would arrive in London

\* Digby started on March 5 from Madrid. *State Papers, Foreign, Spain*, Cottington to Winwood, 13 March, 1616.

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to-morrow and therefore it would be better to wait here. *As I desired to send the secretary to Holland as soon as possible I spoke about this and got him to promise to acquaint His Majesty upon this point. He told me he would do this very speedily and therefore the mission of the secretary to the States need not be delayed in any way; but if he waited a little while the ambassador Carleton would have arrived at the Hague; he also added a new letter for him, which I know for certain contained instructions from His Majesty.*

*M. Caron, ambassador of the States also gave me a letter for M. de Barneveldt. With these and with the instructions of your Excellencies and the letters for the States and count Maurice, together with such information as I thought opportune, I sent off the secretary immediately. He left on Monday evening, and I do not doubt that he will diligently fulfil his mission. After his departure I received word that next week the greater part of the deputies of the States will be present in their provinces not to return and meet together before next May; however, I hope that all this will not prejudice the offices of your Serenity. I also gave instructions to the secretary that in addition to the full publication and exposition of affairs to prince Maurice and M. de Barneveldt he should observe the disposition of their minds because, owing to their great authority in the government scarcely any important decision can be taken before it has been turned over in their minds, and everything upon which they have decided is very easily carried with the rest. I also sent to M. de Vandermiller,\* who was ambassador with your Serenity, to do what he could to second these offices and to supply such information as he might think fit. I hope that by the influence of this person the office will be favourably received, as he is very friendly towards the affairs of your Serenity I have also given the secretary instructions to obtain information about the supply of men desired by your Serenity, and to go to Amsterdam in order to do so more exactly, since the reports which I receive from there say that prices are very high especially for troops and there are rather considerable difficulties in the way of transporting them by sea.*

London, the 25th March, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

March 25.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispaeci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**228.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The ambassador of France has been to see me and has shown me the paragraph of a letter written to him from the court in which he is advised that their Most Christian Majesties, seeing the fire that is being kindled on the frontiers of your Serenity with the archduke Ferdinand, which may easily become a great conflagration to the prejudice of the public peace of Christendon if a remedy be not applied, have given orders to their ambassadors and ministers, out of their regard for the common good, to use every effort to obtain an accommodation of these differences. After thanking the ambassador I told him that your Serenity would be especially grateful for these offices as their Most Christian Majesties were ever solicitous for the general welfare and this office in particular would be especially

\* Cornelius de Vandermyle.

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grateful owing to the confidence shown by them which would produce a great effect, especially with the princes of the House of Austria. The republic had displayed great patience in bearing so long with this pest of the Uscochi and had only been driven to take up arms in pure self defence. The efforts of the French crown would go a long way to secure the fulfilment of the promises which alone would produce a permanent settlement. I added that your Serenity would look for the most satisfactory results from the intervention, and if they did not succeed, their Majesties would have the more reason to recognise the complete justice of the cause of the republic. I told him in particular that your Serenity had no intention of occupying the possessions of others, and those of the archduke least of all, and that you would immediately withdraw your troops once you were assured of the fulfilment of the promises, but before obtaining this it was not reasonable to abandon any advantage in your own defence. The ambassador replied that their Most Christian Majesties recognised that nothing but reasonable things ought to be desired among friends, and they would never advise your Serenity to withdraw from a position for the defence of your states. He went on to represent that nothing would tend more to maintain the balance of human affairs than a settlement of affairs in France, which would serve the interests of his friends elsewhere; he had said the same thing recently to the secretary Winwood, who had called upon him, because the secretary complained that their Christian Majesties did not act more energetically in inducing the Catholic King to carry out the treaty of Asti. He pointed out to him that they could not complain because their Majesties did not procure the security of their neighbours, while on their side they were favouring those who disturbed the kingdom and by thus keeping them preoccupied, deprived them of the opportunity of doing more.

I understand that the Spanish Ambassador complains loudly that your Serenity has occupied a great part of the country of the archduke Ferdinand and says that this in particular prevents His Majesty from disarming the state of Milan and interrupts the peace in Italy which His Majesty had bought recently by so great an outlay of money. I will not fail to say what is proper upon occasion, and with His Majesty in particular I will do what I can. But these representations of the Spaniards receive little attention here and only afford me a more favourable opportunity of effectively setting forth the justice of your Serenity's cause.

London, the 25 March, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

March 25.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**229.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

On Sunday evening a courier arrived from the duke of Savoy. He had first been to Tours to the duke's ambassador with the Most Christian King. He has brought both there and here information of the negotiations of the Senator Zoello in the name of His Highness with the governor of Milan, of the form they took

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and of the artifices of the Spaniards to postpone the execution of the treaty of Asti. His Highness tries to show how unsafe is his position and what slight hopes he retains of seeing the execution of the treaty. The ambassador of Savoy spoke to the secretary Winwood, who showed him the terms of the petition of the princes of France who ask for the execution of the treaty as promised by His Most Christian Majesty, and assured him of the favourable disposition of that king. He said that it was not credible that the Spaniards would harm the duke without granting any of the points which His Highness desired. With all this the ambassador sent back the courier in great haste with the duplicates of his last letters upon his audience of His Majesty at Newmarket.

From Flanders news continues to arrive of the extensive armaments made by the archduke Albert, I am told that he is collecting provisions and artillery and 2,000 horse. He is endeavouring to obtain a number of sailors, because in making sail and other marine exercises they are used to hauling ropes together and this will prove useful in the manipulation of artillery.

The States also are not neglecting their affairs; they have sent twelve companies of foot to Juliers and are making various other provisions.

The marriage of count Henry of Nassau to the daughter of the Landgrave of Hesse is confirmed, with the news, among the other conditions, that the Landgrave gives him as dower some of his pretensions upon the bishopric of Paderborn; now held by the elector of Cologne. They are considered important owing to their closeness to the states of Cleves and especially to the country of Ravensberg, where recently they placed their garrisons; readily seizing the opportunity to take possession of those situations by which they are able the better to secure the land which they hold, and disturb their adversaries. I understand that the place of Borchello formerly held by the elector of Cologne and now recovered by them in the name of the count of Styrum (*Stiren Geldrese*) is extremely convenient.

The prince of Brandenburg, who is staying at Cleves, is to pass towards the Palatinate with five cornets of picked cavalry, and will proceed afterwards to the court of his father, the margrave of Brandenburg. His Majesty has chosen lord Hay to go as ambassador to congratulate his Most Christian Majesty on his marriage.

With regard to the other affairs of France they are daily expecting a decision upon the negotiations. Upon this M. de Courtenay told me that he hears the king is making a great provision of men and money, but nevertheless the prince is by far the stronger, and if he did not believe that both parties would be compelled to make peace by their necessities, he would be very doubtful about it. He told me of the eighth article of the proposals brought forward, providing that justice shall be done to his house in declaring it to be of the blood royal; that it is due to the king and the country that those who really belong to the royal house should be recognized. He told me that in the assembly of the princes, when they were considering the articles to be proposed, this one obtained general assent, that the king of Great Britain had fully

1616.

approved of it and had written about it to his ambassador to see that it is carried out, without M. de Courtenay ever asking him to do anything except that the secretary Winwood had reported the commission to him which it has pleased His Majesty to give. He said he thought your Serenity would be gratified to hear of this, seeing the good disposition of the princes of the blood of France towards you, and especially Mons. the prince. For himself, after the glory which belongs to him as one of the blood royal of France, he boasts most of all of the hereditary claims, which he shares with your Excellencies, to the empire of Constantinople. He spoke to me very specially upon the articles about preserving all the ancient alliances and bonds of the crown of France, among whom the princes include your Serenity. He added that if matters turn out well in France, all the friends and allies of that crown will be able to rest at peace with much less anxiety.

London, the 25th March, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

March 26. **230.** To the AMBASSADOR at TURIN.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

(We have sent to France and England and we hope that our letters will produce satisfactory results. Letters from London of the 12th inst. relate the excellent disposition of His Majesty, to act in favour of the duke of Savoy, and we have instructed our ambassador to speak warmly to him on the subject.) The governor of Milan listened attentively to the representations made by our secretary thereupon the negotiations of the marquis Manriquez, and seemed to receive the office kindly. He said that he desired a peaceful ending to the affair. He seemed to fully recognise the justice of our cause and how important to us and to Christendom is the provocation of the Uscochi against the Turks and the introduction into Italy of men of a contrary religion. He said that in conformity with the orders of the Emperor he had written to the dukes of Tuscany and Mantua to send to this city to start negotiations and he has done everything to stop the siege of Gradisca. At the same time we have letters from our ambassador at Rome telling us of the friendly exhortations of the pope for peace, for which his Holiness is willing even to shed his own blood. We have therefore, in order to show our sincere desire for peace, instructed our Proveditore General in Terra Firma to suspend the bombardment of Gradisca for some days, so as to remove this hindrance to negotiations and to prove our good intentions to all. We direct you to impart this to His Highness as a sign of confidence.

The like, except the part between brackets, to France, England, Naples, Florence, Mantua, the Grisons, the Ambassador Gussoni.

The like to Germany, but simply for information.

[*Italian.*]

March 28. **231.** To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

The republic recognises the importance of the union of spirits and of the balance of the arms of both parties. We continue to increase our forces everywhere and we are firmly resolved to maintain the



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interests of the duke of Savoy as if they were our own. We have heard with especial satisfaction of the release of the marquis of Caluso from prison. The Proveditore General in Dalmatia advises us that he has taken the strong place of Berse Zargai. This will secure the whole coast as far as Albona and Franona.

Ayes 172.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

The line to Turin, Rome, France, the Ambassador Gussoni, Spain, the Ambassador Gritti, Naples, Florence, Mantua, the Grisons.

[Italian.]

March 28. **232.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savonia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

I saw the duke on Friday. He spoke of possible assistance from France. Time was everything. He might enlist Bernese and Zurichers but the republic should do so also. Help from England would take too long, and there was danger of failure. He said, I will tell you in confidence that my ambassador writes he is of opinion that there are two things to which the king of England will never bring himself, to summon parliament, which alone can supply him with the necessary funds and to make war on the Spaniards, as he now hears of negotiations for an alliance with them, and marriages (*et voglio dirle in confidenza che il mio Ambr. mi scrive che giudica che a due cose non si condurra mai il Re d'Inghilterra à decretar i parlamenti, che sono quelli che possono darle modo di spendere, et a far la guerra à Spagnoli, anzi hora ascolta trattatione d'unirsi con loro et matrimonii*).

Turin, the 28th March, 1616.

[Italian.]

March 29. **233.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Busta 155.  
Venetian  
Archives.

On the 16th inst. I met Sir [Henry] Wotton. We spoke about the ambassador Foscarini. We got upon the reported intention of the ambassador to kill Muscorno. Wotton said that the king had spoken to him upon the matter. Foscarini had spoken earnestly in his own defence, but had never asked for pardon. He said the king had only interfered because he was sorry to see disputes between the servants of the republic.

[Italian.]

April 1. **234.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary sent to the Low Countries, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

*Sig. Carleton, ambassador of the king of Great Britain, arrived at this place a week before me. He had his first audience yesterday. He waited a part of the time in order that Sig. Barnevelt might be allowed to take part, but seeing that the mischief was a long one, he decided to perform this first complimentary office without him, reserving business till after Easter.*

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*I called upon him, gave him letters of the secretary Winwood, and told him the reason of my coming, asking for his assistance. He seemed most ready, and said he had instructions to support the representations of your Serenity. He said some had asked him what His Majesty would do. He told them he would inform them in the council, but they might rest assured he would give them a good example to follow.*

The Hague, the 1st April, 1616.

[Italian ; deciphered.]

April 1.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**235.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary sent to Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The ambassador Carleton, who has recently been continually meeting now one and now another of the chief men here, informs me that the greater part of their conversation concerns the affairs of your Serenity, and he found them very well disposed towards your service, and the sending of a mission here may prove of notable advantage. In the course of a conversation he said that if their troubles with the archduke do not cease, your Excellencies may easily draw advantage from these provinces, and if they do not have war in their own country or in Cleves, they may readily allow your Serenity to enlist among their people and even take some of the troops more ready and accustomed to war. If on the other hand they have war here and so cannot spare soldiers, your Serenity will obtain much greater advantages from the diversion and possibly the Austrians might lose all desire to fight elsewhere. That owing to the mutual services which these two republics can render each other, it might be well for them to have a good understanding.*

The Hague, the 1st April, 1616.

[Italian ; deciphered.]

April 2.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**236.** GREGORIO BARBARIGÒ, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The king has returned to London, and on Tuesday I had audience to execute the commissions of your Serenity of last month. I thanked His Majesty for the instructions given to Sir [Henry] Wotton and the letters he had written to the princes of Germany, and his declaration of the justice of the cause of your Serenity. This was greatly valued by your Excellencies, who desired that he should be even better informed upon the events taking place. As a further expression of confidence they had desired their ambassador Gussoni, who is going to France, to travel through Germany, and in particular to visit the Elector Palatine, giving His Highness full information of what is taking place. Your Excellencies have been still more led to take this course because you understand that the archduke Ferdinand omits no evil offices against the interests and the justice of your Serenity's cause. That for the same reasons I had instructions to send my secretary to Holland to inform the States of this, and to report the whole to His Majesty, so that he might use his great influence with the States to lead them to take a favourable view of your Serenity's affairs. I had intended to state all this to His Majesty before the departure of*

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*the secretary, had I not awaited a time more convenient to His Majesty. I had instructions not only to prefer requests for your Serenity, but to thank him for the instructions which he had already given. I then went on to tell His Majesty about the negotiations at Prague. I pointed out in particular the unreasonableness of the Imperial ministers in demanding that your Serenity should withdraw your troops from those posts which you have occupied for your own defence before they have fulfilled the promises made so long ago, and how ready and moderate your Serenity will be to withdraw when that is done, within two months, as arranged by the promise made at Vienna in 1612. Thus His Majesty might readily understand the unreasonableness of the emperor and others in wishing to divert the question from its true channel; to give up speaking about the Uscochi and to complain that your Serenity has occupied the territory of the House of Austria, and say that on this account he is bound to arm for defence and to recover what your Serenity holds, using these pretexts to give an appearance of respectability to their action. Upon the matter of the Uscochi they cannot speak in any manner that would be decent; while the declaration of your Serenity, expressly promising restitution if the promises are fulfilled is perfectly straightforward.*

*The king heard me graciously, and replied that the moderate intentions of your Excellencies to defend your own and not occupy the possessions of others were so well known to all that they did not seem open to question. You were acting very prudently in retaining those posts, because it was an advantage to hold something which the others are obliged to ask for, and it leads more easily to a settlement. It would be wise to keep a sharp look out, and guard against attack, and was better than relying upon the first document for a suspension of arms. It was good to allow some alteration to be made subsequently and finally to offer the restitution of the places held if the archduke does what he ought. He added that he would always be the same towards your Serenity, and will willingly do everything which can please and serve you. He afterwards asked me how your Serenity stood with the prince of Savoy, and what was being done with the forces held by the governor of Milan. I replied that your Serenity stood exceedingly well with the duke, and that the governor continued to arm as usual. I know nothing of any desire on his part to disarm, but I heard some reports that he pretended he was keeping his troops because of your Serenity. This was entirely wrong and unreasonable, because your Excellencies had always been good neighbours to the state of Milan. With regard to the affairs of the archduke, you desired the fulfilment of the promises made as a greater security for peace, and you gave no occasion to anyone, least of all the governor of Milan, to remain armed. Just as the emperor had written to say that it was necessary to be in readiness to do what had been ordained, so His Majesty should use his great influence to let it be freely understood by the Catholic king and others whom it might concern that he recognises the reasonableness and the good intentions of your Serenity and the justice of your cause.*

London, the 2nd April, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

1616.  
April 2.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**237. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England,  
to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*The ambassador of the duke of Savoy had audience of the king on Wednesday. He represented the state of affairs in Italy, the intention of the Spaniards to maintain an army in the state of Milan to intimidate all the world thereby and afterwards to do whatever they might please for their own advantage, without having the smallest intention of executing the treaty of Asti; all to the detriment of the safety of His Highness and of the reputation of those princes who intererred in that settlement. From this he went on to press His Majesty to take some resolution which should put an end to these continual alarms, and to act in this in close union with your Serenity. His Majesty replied that so far as he was concerned he was ready for every good work and to perform every good office with your Excellencies; he had intended at my last audience to say something about the duke of Savoy and had begun to do so, but I had gone on to deal with other particulars and subsequently he had not thought it fitting to introduce similar proposals at the moment. The ambassador of Savoy told me this last particular with the very words used by His Majesty. I replied that I had asked the king about His Highness and about the forces preserved in being by the governor of Milan in the course of conversation upon other affairs of your Excellencies with the archduke Ferdinand; such as the pretension that those forces were kept in being on account of your Serenity. Upon this I had informed His Majesty that this was no reason as the state of Milan was not in the slightest danger from any attack by your Serenity and they were bound to dismiss those troops before there was any dispute with the archduke at all; that it was simply a pretext, and various other particulars, which I calculated would keep His Majesty well disposed, not only towards the general peace of Italy but towards the safety of His Highness himself, whose interest your Serenity has as much at heart as your own. After this the ambassador went on to say that the Spaniards wished to render all princes dependent upon them, and they took the liberty of making promises without keeping any of them, as it might happen to suit their interests. That with the forces which they have in being and those which they can easily collect they have no other purpose than to inflict some notable damage upon the state of your Serenity upon the occasion of these difficulties with the archduke Ferdinand and with His Highness, and yet it is necessary to make provision that we may not be worn out by continual delays and at length fall under their subjection. It is necessary at all costs to ensure that the governor of Milan shall disarm according to the treaty of Asti, as in doing so he will release His Highness from danger and your Serenity would certainly obtain what you so greatly desire in the matter of the Uscochi, as it is quite certain that neither the archduke Ferdinand nor the Emperor would undertake a war alone against your Serenity, without being backed by Spain. The king understands this very well; the princes of France are excellently disposed, and by means of the accommodation with His Most Christian Majesty they will obtain the control of the government, and the queen mother, since she has become aware of the plots against her authority, will in the future see eye to eye with the prince of Condé. That for their own interests or because of his own control over them,*

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*the king will also induce the States and the princes of Germany to join in. His Majesty had previously proposed some alliance to your Serenity, but your Excellencies had thought it better to maintain a good union of hearts than by too warm a demonstration to risk disturbance elsewhere. He added that it was necessary to urge most strongly the demands upon the Spaniards to disarm the state of Milan, as they are bound to, setting them a fixed time in which to accomplish it, as in this way only is it possible to obtain complete security. If it is necessary to have recourse to force one must do so with the assistance of many other powers. If matters go on as they are now doing, we shall all be consumed by the continual uneasiness and the constant attacks.*

*I replied that I was exceedingly glad to hear of the continued disposition of His Majesty towards the common good, and in particular towards the liberty of Italy and the safety of His Highness, and that the States, the United Princes of Germany and the kingdom of France concurred in this feeling, as this desire for the peace and security of Italy and especially of His Highness was uppermost in the mind of your Serenity, who had judged it better not to enter upon this too suspicious name of alliance not from any lukewarmness of affection, but upon general considerations of expediency. To His Highness you are bound by ancient friendly relations and interests as well as by the documents of the treaty of Asti, which proved with sufficient clearness your excellent disposition towards him. I enlarged upon this point, in conformity with my instructions.*

*In addition to this the Secretary Winwood made a long disquisition to me saying that the determination of the Spaniards to maintain an armed force in Milan was apparent, that is to say in the very heart of Europe, to create suspicion and unrest among all the Christian powers, and to be able easily to damage whichever one might be most advantageous to them. Thus they keep the duke of Savoy on tenterhooks, wish to threaten your Serenity, and command all the other powers of Italy. They can then proceed easily to France, turn thence to Germany and Flanders and in a single flight set all the world by the ears. Accordingly, although His Majesty is further away than any of the others, yet, for the sake of the general good and especially of Italy, your Serenity and the duke of Savoy, he will not fail to employ all his strength upon this affair when he knows that this will be agreeable to his friends. He has frequently made representations in Spain for the execution of the treaty of Asti and the disarmament of the state of Milan, but these representations being unsupported by anything else, had proved fruitless. If they had been accompanied by some firm resolve, they might possibly have been more successful, and everything might have been peacefully settled as desired. If things remain as they are, the duke of Savoy will be exposed to constant danger, and your Serenity will also be exposed to war with the archduke Ferdinand and unable to avoid the hostility of the king of Spain, who may attempt to enter the territory of the republic to make war in the state of your Excellencies. With the same forces which would be necessary for defence in such case the Spaniards can be compelled to disarm, or war can be carried into their own house with the assistance of the duke of Savoy and the help of His Majesty, France, the States of Holland and the princes of Germany, with the*

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hope of speedy termination and a successful issue. That procrastination simply affords the enemy an opportunity to attack; that all this ought to be considered by the prudence of your Excellencies and kept duly secret. You must recognise the good intentions of His Majesty and decide what you judge to be best for the general advantage.

I thanked him warmly for the care and concern of His Majesty, and his ministers for the liberty of Italy and the interests of your Serenity. I enlarged upon this and assured him that your Excellencies were deeply indebted. That you desired quiet and security, and were far from coveting the things of others, though you were resolved upon preserving your own, and you would always be ready to take any resolution which was clearly for the general good.

He told me that the Spanish ambassador had not spoken to the king, but had complained loudly to him about the districts of the archduke Ferdinand which your Excellencies had occupied. With regard to them, I said that His Majesty and the secretary could render great service to the interests of your Serenity upon such occasions by roundly pronouncing in favour of the justice of your cause and your good intentions. I enlarged upon various other particulars, in accordance with my instructions. He replied that neither the king nor his ministers would fail in anything which might concern the interests of your Serenity, and this had led him more than anything else to speak to me as he had done.

Sir [Henry] Wotton left here on Monday. He took some instructions upon these same affairs. He has orders to treat with the Elector Palatine for the duke of Saroy, to introduce him into the Union of the princes. I hear by way of the merchants that His Highness has remitted 90,000 crowns to Nürenberg.

Some days ago there was a good deal of talk that the States would redeem the places which are in the hands of His Majesty, paying the debt due to this Crown, which at the present time may amount to a million and a half. I hear from a fairly good source that such negotiations may take place.\*

London, the 2nd April, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

April 2.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**238.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Last week I called on the English ambassador. He said he had been to see the Captain of the Sea, with whom he had the following conversation. When he arrived the Captain said: I imagine you have come to complain about the people of Algiers. The ambassador replied: I have not come for that, but to give you certain particulars so that you may not have reason to complain in the future. He went on to say, your Excellency must know that some hundred of our ships have been taken at the mouth of the strait in the space of one year; they were certainly small ones.† Although I have several times complained about

\* Negotiations for the redemption of the cautionary towns had been in progress as early as February. The States owed the English crown eight millions of florins, equivalent to about 750,000 crowns. The sum actually offered by Caron to James was 250,000*l.* Motley: *The Life and Death of John of Barneveld*, ii., pp. 71-73.

† Between 1609 and 1616 the Algerines had captured 466 British ships and reduced their crews to slavery. Oppenheim: *The Administration of the Royal Navy*, p. 198.

1616.

*this and have received promises as well as various commissions, they have been of no use. The French and the Flemings are also concerned in this, and as no remedy has been applied in so many years after the numerous representations which we have made, they propose to avenge themselves and will come accompanied by all manner of Christians, who desire nothing better. If they take possession of some part of your seaboard you will have no cause to complain to the ambassadors. I am not here to protest but to warn, as I believe you will soon see the consequences. The Captain said: We will send commissioners. The ambassador replied: I want no more commissioners or Chiaus, because with all your commissioners I could not release a French valet of mine who was at Tunis, but the galleys of Florence afterwards got this for me. The Pasha said: I do not know what to do, they will not hear me and they are all my enemies. With this the ambassador took leave. I report this to show that your Serenity is not alone in suffering from the attacks of these bertonis, and that previous experience of commissions shows that they are useless.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 2nd April, 1616.

[Italian ; deciphered.]

April 4.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**239.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

A courier arrived yesterday from England with letters of the 24th ult. sent by the ambassador of His Highness, who has had lengthy negotiations with His Majesty. The letters speak of the beginning of a great war about Juliers and the preparations on both sides. The king there is becoming quite active and proposes a league, suggesting that Sir [Henry] Wotton shall come and negotiate it. He displays the greatest zeal for the defence of the duke and his cause and has given the ambassador as many words and promises as heart can desire. But Verua says that they do not place much reliance in him; and that when it comes to the push, he breaks down, as was the case at Asti when he promised to give money to His Highness. With regard to this league, the duke will not make it unless your Serenity enters also.

Turin, the 4th April, 1616.

[Italian.]

April 8.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**240.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary sent to the Low Countries, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The ambassador Carleton, who in addition to the charge of ambassador is also councillor of His Majesty in the Council of State here which decides war, has been to-day to take up his office. He told me that they discussed the affairs of your Serenity at length, and he recognised their great concern for your prosperity. They are not a people to stand upon ceremony, they do not value compliments, but it is better to deal freely with them, as they do with others. That they especially desire an understanding with your Serenity. He had experience of the king his master, of your Serenity and of the States here, and he recognised that all three powers have the same objects, the only difference being in the means; your Excellencies prefer neutrality, while*

1616.

*here they desire an understanding. He had thrown out hints about this when he was in Venice, but without any results. However, he prayed God, that it might come about in the future, as it was the sign of a wise man to change his opinion, and your Serenity had a good opportunity to do so now, without the possibility of anyone taking offence. I confined myself to general terms, expressing the goodwill of your Serenity towards the States.*

The Hague, the 8th April, 1616.

[*Italian ; deciphered.*]

April 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**241.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary sent to the Low Countries, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*I find that if there is no war here, it will be easy to get men here, but if there is war, it may not be easy. The States will ask for Germans, French, English, Scotch and other nationalities to help them, and they would not grant their own men to other powers, and even if they did it would not be easy to obtain anyone worth having, as in order to serve under Prince Maurice they more readily take low wages here than high wages elsewhere.*

*A cavalier of considerable standing has been to offer two or three hundred horse to your Serenity. I thanked him, but neither refused nor accepted his offer. He could levy 1,200 to 1,500 foot, who would be picked men and well disciplined. They would cost rather more than the English, because the English could be got together in one place and could come by sea, whereas these could not be obtained from one province alone but from all together.*

The Hague, the 8th April, 1616.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

April 9.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**242.** PIETRO VICO, Venetian Secretary in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Secretary of England has made strong representations to the king and the ministers here for the restitution of Oneglia to the duke of Savoy. They told him that His Majesty gave orders for this many days ago, but the delay was caused because His Highness would not disarm or restore to the pope or the emperor the places which he holds. However the treaty would certainly be executed, although the marquis of Ynoyosa granted much more than he had instructions to do.

Madrid, the 9th April, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

April 12.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**243.** PIERO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The ambassador of Berne, who has recently returned from England, has told me of some conversation which he had with the king there in three or four audiences with regard to a close understanding and a union between all those princes who are threatened by the power of Spain. Among others he named your Serenity. He discussed various*



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*ways of doing this, either by a bond to render mutual assistance, or to create a diversion if any one was attacked.*

*I knew from the ambassador of that king that negotiations about this have been carried on with the prince at Loudun (Luddun) and that the duke of Savoy also is treating to a similar purpose.*

Tours, the 12th April, 1616.

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

April 12.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**244.** PIERO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Huguenots seem dissatisfied with what the prince has arranged with the king's deputies, and have chosen special persons to make their remonstrance. They wish compensation to be given to M. de la Force, and that the Council be reformed before they proceed to any accommodation. The English ambassador and the duke of Sully have set out straightway for la Rochelle to try and remove these difficulties so that they may not break off the peace, of which everyone is greatly desirous.

Tours, the 12th April, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

April 12.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**245.** VINCENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassador designate for France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Pietro Rubino, a subject of your Serenity, moved by zeal for the public service, has left England to come and offer himself, and has asked me to write these few lines in his favour.

Frankfort, the 12th April, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

April 14.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**246.** To the AMBASSADOR at ROME and the like to the other courts except France.

The ambassador of His Most Christian Majesty has made representations to us for settling the present disturbances, offering his own services and those of a special minister. We replied as you will see by the enclosed copy, and we have written in conformity to our Ambassador Contarini to report our good intentions to their Majesties. This is for information. We also inform you that we have chosen Ottaviano Zen to be Ambassador Extraordinary with His Most Christian Majesty upon these affairs. He will leave in a few days.

Ayes 163.

Noes 1.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

1616.  
April 14.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**247. PIETRO VICO, Venetian Secretary in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The Spaniards have released an Englishman who was taken prisoner three years ago in the East Indies.\* The king of England had answered by keeping two Spanish captains in custody. The Englishman was handed over to the Secretary here, and the Spaniards in London are to be delivered to the Catholic ambassador. The Englishman immediately set off post, and as he is a first-rate man at sea they say that his king will give him the command of a ship to go to the Indies.

Madrid, the 14th April, 1616.

[Italian.]

April 15.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**248. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary sent to the Low Countries, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*The States have resolved to take the field this spring and they have sent to France and England to recall their captains. Some even propose to break with the Spaniards at the first move made at Berg, but others advise more temperate action. It seems that the English ambassador has several times advised the States not to make war unless they are provoked, and this is the growing opinion of the majority of the people, although many think otherwise. They have secret information about a league made between the king of Spain and the ecclesiastics of Germany, engineered by the Elector of Cologne. They know no details, but think it is directed against the Protestant powers. The elector despises them, as being so ill-united and irresolute and so unprepared to do anything effective, not one of them having money, and therefore all thinking of their own interests, attending to everything except what they ought to, and relying entirely upon hopes from the Dutch.*

The Hague, the 15th April, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

April 16.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**249. To the AMBASSADOR at Rome and the like to the other Courts.**

Although we have, out of consideration for the representations of the powers, slackened the progress of our arms, we understand that the archduke continues to increase his forces and they have raided a village of Istria. This shows, with other things, their disinclination for peace. Accordingly we have decided upon the levy of 4,000 French offered to us by M. de Asaz in the name of M. de Châtillon, and have directed our ambassador at Turin to arrange the details.

The ambassador in England shall be charged to tell His Majesty of this resolution.

Ayes 167.

Noes 4.

Neutral 5.

[Italian.]

\* Probably Robert Ridge, whose case was recommended to Cottington's charge. *State Papers, Foreign, Spain.* Cottington to Winwood, 26 March, 1616, o.s.

1616.

April 16.  
Senato,  
Terra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**250.** Whereas by deliberation of this council the Counts Palatine have been deprived of their privilege of conferring honorary degrees in our State, it is resolved that the Reformers of the University shall appoint one of the College of Arts for three years to confer the degree of Doctor *auctoritate Veneta*, freely upon poor scholars and others. At the end of three years they shall appoint another, and so on.

Ayes 144.

Noes 3.

Neutral 6.

[*Italian.*]

April 18.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Germania.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**251.** ZORZI GIUSTINIAN, Venetian Ambassador in Germany, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have letters from Augsburg of the 8th from a correspondent returned from Stuttgart, where the Elector Palatine, the prince of Anhalt, the margrave of Anspach, the margrave of Durlach and other princes and princesses to the number of twenty-three assembled for the christening of the prince of Wirtemberg. They held various secret councils together concerning the Union and resolved to stand ready to defend themselves. They discussed the dispute between the republic and the archduke Ferdinand, and said that a diversion would prove useful for your Serenity; they prolonged their Union for some years and decided to further cement the good understanding with England, the States and the Hanse towns.

Prague, the 18th April, 1616. *Copy.*

[*Italian.*]

April 18.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**252.** PIERO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The English ambassador and the duke of Sully have not yet returned to Loudun from la Rochelle, but it is understood that they have so arranged matters with the Huguenots that there will be no further difficulty, in that quarter.

The duke of Epemon continues to arm. He wishes to pose as the protector of the Catholic religion against the Huguenots as though he would form another party in France, but it is not thought that he can do anything of much consequence when the accommodation has been made with the princes.

Tours, the 18th April, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

April 18.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**253.** VINCENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassador designate for France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

His Highness hears from Cologne in letters of the 15th inst. that Count Frederick of Vandenberg has taken Dortmund and some other places in the emperor's name. He arrived before Lippstadt where the States had placed some companies of horse under Handenburgh to hold it against the Spaniards, on which account the archduke Albert

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had threatened to break the truce if they did not evacuate it. There is no definite news about the result, some saying that Handenburgh came out, to the general astonishment, leaving the place in the hands of the Spaniards. It is understood that the States are collecting their forces to send to those parts, and that they have sent ambassadors to the king of Great Britain to know if he will co-operate in their defence, as they are sure that if His Majesty and the United Princes of Germany do their part, great progress will be made against the Spaniards in that country.

Heidelberg, the 18th April, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

April 18.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**254.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The duke read me a letter from his ambassador in England of the 20th ult. saying that the king there seems anxious that the troops from the state of Milan should not be allowed to pass into Flanders, and promises to take steps to prevent it. The agent of that king here spoke to me to the same effect, and made urgent representations to the duke upon the subject. The duke, however, would like to see them sent and be free from them himself; but they are now dealing upon general terms and the reply will be courteous but non-committal.

Turin, the 18th April, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

April 19.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**255.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Since my letters of the 2nd inst. I have received those of your Serenity of the 11th ult., and subsequently from Gio. Battista Tassis, the courier, those of the 23rd and 24th, and by the next ordinary those of the 15th and 18th of the same month. I sent no word of this by the last ordinary, as I hoped later to be able to send further information by express courier. He arrived on the night preceding Friday, the 8th inst. I sent on the following morning to the Lord Chamberlain to ask for an audience of His Majesty. In the evening the Secretary Winwood came to see me. He told me that His Majesty was preparing to receive the communion on Sunday, which is Easter, according to the style here. On that account he could not appoint me an audience immediately, and he sent to ask if I could communicate to the secretary what I had to impart, and he would straightway inform the king. I thanked the king and secretary suitably, and told the latter what had taken place between your Serenity and the arch-duke Ferdinand, of the levies being made in Austria and the Tyrol with the money supplied by the Spanish ambassador, and what is being done especially about Gradisca to ensure your states against invasion. I told him of the representations made by your Excellencies to the governor of Milan, and went on to speak of the negotiations carried on by the duke of Savoy with the same

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Governor by means of the President Gioelo, telling him the same things which your Excellencies commanded me to communicate to His Majesty, especially with regard to the unreasonable pretensions of the Governor with respect to the duke, and his declaration that he would not carry out the treaty of Asti in any other way. I pointed out that when your Serenity heard this the same thought occurred to you as had occurred to His Majesty's prudence, namely, that these forces in the duchy of Milan are meant to keep the world in a state of disquiet, and that it is necessary for them to be dissolved in conformity with the treaty of Asti, as by this means the Spaniards not only harass the duke of Savoy and keep him in a state of suspense, but they use them to encourage the ambitions of the archduke. I enlarged upon these particulars.

Winwood heard me attentively, and replied that he would represent it clearly to His Majesty, who had upon every occasion displayed his excellent intentions towards your Serenity. As matters were narrowing down, it would be as well to abandon generalities and tell him exactly what your Serenity desired His Majesty to do. I told him it was what I had already fully stated, that His Majesty should *make representations to France and Spain to secure the execution of the treaty of Asti; that with regard to helping the duke of Savoy, your Serenity, in spite of many other impediments, will do your part so far as you are able. His Majesty, by a declaration, will favour your Serenity in the manner he thinks best.*

*The Secretary Winwood replied that your Serenity was most prudent and needed no further advice, but it was necessary to speak of the help which His Majesty would give, and it would be as well to think it over: he would be with me on the following day and he would also say something about it to the ambassador of Savoy, so as to learn what His Highness required.*

*I told the ambassador what the Secretary Winwood had said to me, and when I went to see the secretary on the following day the ambassador was present. The secretary told me that he had reported to His Majesty what I had said to him. The king had heard it all very readily, but wished to be told what was judged necessary to secure the affairs of all, as it is clear that representations do not suffice in order to make the state of Milan disarm. I said that your Serenity, well knowing His Majesty's excellent disposition, felt that his influence and authority would prove of the greatest assistance if he would intervene with his knowledge of the common interests, and would inform your Excellencies of his intentions, with which they would act in conformity, as time was passing, the occasion was pressing and it would be easy to take up the affair and facilitate the replies as much as possible. He asked about the state of affairs in Flanders and hinted that according as the Spaniards were occupied elsewhere their forces in Italy would be greater or less as the case might be. Winwood replied that the States would not break the truce by themselves. The ambassador of Savoy then said that he would have nothing to state on behalf of the duke if His Highness had not been compelled to arm himself because of the arming in the state of Milan; that he could not stand by himself, as his State was too much exhausted and troubled by war and by past expenses. He therefore asked for help, and at once, because the peril was immediate, and while they were turning over other things it was necessary to take*

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into consideration the urgent need of His Highness. He offered the same idea expressed in various other ways. Winwood replied: If it is desired that the governor of Milan shall disarm, the reply was yes. He continued that if it could not be obtained in any other way they would attack the state of Milan to compel them to do so. He asked if we required help for this. I said that all desired the disarmament of the state of Milan and that His Majesty should use his authority for this, and should supply such help as his prudence thought fit, and after we had discussed this I would at once write to your Serenity. He then asked me if I would make this request of the king and go to His Majesty with the ambassador of Savoy and he would secure an audience. The ambassador of Savoy seemed to agree to this, but I pointed out that it might be more useful to discuss the more essential things, without going to these appearances. The Secretary Winwood was satisfied and the ambassador of Savoy also. I spoke to the latter apart afterwards. I told him that these matters required discussion, that they could not be decided without orders from your Serenity and His Highness, and even if they agreed, and it was done, it would be proper to give the same orders in France, to proceed in concert. He approved this reasoning entirely and was completely satisfied, so that what he had at first inclined to was not done. At the end the Secretary Winwood said that he would report to the king what had been discussed, he would see the Spanish ambassador and afterwards return to see me. He did this on Friday morning, after he had first sent word to the ambassador of Savoy to be present also. In a discourse of considerable length he told us that His Majesty desired the universal good and the tranquillity of Christendom and had acted everywhere to preserve it, as he had done last year in Italy and this year in France, whence he is daily expecting to hear of the final consummation. He is still of the same mind. The secretary said that he had been to the Spanish ambassador and told him that His Majesty had pledged his word to the treaty of Asti, and as a religious and pious prince he wished to keep it, but it seemed that in doing so he would have to break off that friendship which he has with the crown of Spain. He wished to let the ambassador know that he should regret this, but owing to his obligation he could not do otherwise. To this the Spanish ambassador replied that His Catholic Majesty would have executed the treaty of Asti and had already given orders to that effect, and it would be completed by now if the duke of Savoy had not wished to add some words in a letter, and if your Serenity had not began to arm, but in any case he would write, and everything would be carried out in accordance with the negotiations. He had sent to France in conformity to negotiate with His Most Christian Majesty so that they might also decide to do what is proper and he hoped that all would end happily. I thanked him suitably and the ambassador of Savoy did the same; we went on to speak of matters which I report in my following letters.

London, the 19th April, 1616.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

1616.  
April 19.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**256. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

After I had thanked the Secretary Winwood for his representation to the Spanish ambassador and the letters sent to France, I went on to show how frivolous were the reasons advanced by the Spaniards for not disarming. I said that they did not maintain their forces for the sake of the duke of Savoy, but of your Serenity, as if they were bound to disarm absolutely, they would have no reason to attack your Serenity, and the duke of Savoy knew and complained of his danger, so that every reason willed that they should execute the treaty, for which they had given a special promise to His Majesty. Your Excellencies therefore hoped the more that His Majesty would see it carried out, especially as the interest of your Serenity *and of all the other princes in his confidence were involved*. The ambassador of Savoy also began to speak about the letters which the Spaniards said they had not wished the duke to write. However the Secretary Winwood interrupted him and said he knew quite well that they were bound to disarm, and yet they were not bound not to make war upon your Serenity, but all the same, *after the affairs are settled in France, as it is daily expected they will be, the princes will send their troops to the duke of Savoy*. After saying some more to the same purpose, he asked me what your Serenity desired, whether you wished the treaty of Asti to be executed, or to be assisted. I replied that your Excellencies desired both and what you proposed with regard to the carrying out of the treaty of Asti was not because you desired in any way to withdraw from the very great obligation towards His Majesty, but to inform him of what you considered to be beneficial, and on this account you hoped that His Majesty would be the more anxious to obtain it. This would render your obligation the greater. To this Winwood replied that the execution of the treaty of Asti and the assistance were two things in which your Excellencies sought the help of His Majesty. He then went on to say that His Majesty would perform every good office for your Serenity, but it was not convenient to make war with the Spaniards. He added, partly clearly and partly between his teeth, among other words, that once his king had entered upon war with Spain your Excellencies might come to an accommodation, so that it was only right that if His Majesty helped your Serenity he should in his turn be helped by you. I spoke strongly and earnestly about the obligations of your Serenity to His Majesty and of the desire which you have to show your gratitude and goodwill effectively; that the republic had always been grateful and mindful of benefits, especially with respect to His Majesty. He replied courteously, but in few words, and then went on to say that His Majesty had offered his alliance to your Serenity and had received a somewhat lukewarm reply that it was sufficient to preserve a union of hearts and such like things, showing that the king was considerably dissatisfied with the answer; and yet he put in the remark that if your Serenity desires help you should ask for it and state exactly what you require; that he had nothing more to say, and I understood very well.

I did not fail to assure him most strongly of the affection and esteem of your Serenity for His Majesty and that you would always be

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concerned in the interests of this crown, that in the negotiations which you have carried on you have never placed anything before your wishes to respond to his friendship and discharge your obligations. That the reservations made at other times did not arise from any selfish motives, but from a sincere conviction of what would be best for the common good, and so at the present time, when you are acquainted with the intentions of His Majesty and enlightened upon the other interests, you will find it useful to rule your proceedings more frankly in making decisions. You will then do everything in your power for the good of others and will make known the great influence of the prudent counsels of His Majesty. Winwood spoke upon all these matters in various strains, and at last he said haughtily: If the Republic wishes to have assistance and to be sure that she will never be attacked by the Spaniards, she must enter our union, and all will be for her. He stated this to me as a settled resolution, and with that the discussion ended. I did not rest until I had seen him again to procure further particulars. He confined himself to telling me that your Serenity must decide, and that a strong attack is the best defence.

The ambassador of Savoy, both in my presence and separately, has made various requests for help in money, saying that His Highness has no need of troops. To this His Majesty has replied that he will see that the treaty of Asti is carried out and will help the duke with money. If the treaty is not executed he will declare war upon the Spaniards. He also negotiates for including His Highness in the peace of the States and the Princes of Germany his confederates. His Highness is equally anxious to see your Serenity included also. The same ambassador has asked and will receive further particulars from His Majesty of the assistance to be given to His Highness, and also, when he has an opportunity, he will ask for an open declaration for your Serenity, and for the rest he loses no occasion to benefit and help all that he thinks may assist the disposition of your Excellencies to enter the union.

The king has preferred that I should treat upon these particulars with the Secretary Winwood, not because he was occupied by reason of Easter Day or for any other cause which would prevent him from hearing me, but in order to make me know more freely his feeling about the union, and he will not interest himself further in the proposal before he has more knowledge of the intentions of the Spaniards.

His Majesty has returned to Newmarket but will be back soon. I will not fail to represent to him all the affairs in the best possible manner, to preserve and increase his good disposition towards your Serenity.

London, the 19th April, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

April 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**257.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

It is many days since the ambassador of Berne left this court to return to France. I have had a letter written to the Ambassador Wotton to get him to perform such offices as are necessary, according to the information which he may receive from Sig. Giovanni Battista Padavino or from the Secretary Suriano, and as



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he himself may see fit. It is not known whereabouts he may be just at present, but when the secretary told me this, I asked him to give me the letters which I was awaiting to send the present courier, and to send them to the Secretary Surian at Zurich so that he may give them to Wotton. I hope that the latter will do some useful work with them, as the assistance of His Majesty is much to be desired in these affairs.

Of the affairs of Flanders, even if the Margrave of Brandenburg has renounced his pretensions to the states, as your Serenity commands me to understand, I do not find that anything has actually taken place; at all events the States have such interests in that country that they keep it guarded with their troops, and owing to its nearness and other causes, they treat it with as much care as the most serious affairs of their own state, so that in any case it is probable that these disputes will lead to the taking up of arms this year. Your Excellencies will receive more particular information upon this head from the Secretary Lionello; there are already signs of a beginning. I shall not fail to inform the agents of the Elector Palatine and the king of Denmark of what is taking place, as a testimony of the confidence of your Excellencies towards their princes, and for a clearer declaration of the most just cause of your Serenity. I shall do the same with others whom I may think of, as the Spanish ambassador never ceases saying what he can in favour of the archduke, whenever he has an opportunity. He sent yesterday to inform the Secretary Winwood of the mission sent by the governor of Milan, of the marquis Andrea Manriques to your Serenity, from which he had not obtained the satisfaction which he desired, and accordingly he had been compelled to send some cannons and a certain number of troops to Cremona. By this communication beyond all other things he goes about manufacturing excuses for keeping the state of Milan armed.

The ambassador of Savoy has sent off a gentleman with all diligence to inform His Highness of all that has been negotiated hitherto, *and especially to advise him of the proposals for a league with your Serenity.*

With regard to the 200 thousand of powder of which your Excellencies commanded me to make some provision, a difficulty has arisen about obtaining it at Amsterdam, as the merchants here say that they are advised from that place that there is none ready there at the present moment owing to an arrangement made with your Serenity. I have, however, taken steps to obtain the largest quantity which can be had in this kingdom, which is certainly of excellent quality and of the fineness which your Excellencies prescribed, and at a reasonable price. By to-morrow or the following day I hope to hear what provision can be made now, but I fear that within a reasonable time it will not be possible to obtain more than 50 thousand or thereabouts. With this in hand I will afterwards see if the merchants here cannot overcome the difficulty of scarcity and other impediments and provide the complete quantity elsewhere. I will inform your Serenity and the Proveditori of the artillery of exactly what I succeed in doing.

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I have also obtained information about taking troops in ships by sea. I find that the time spent on the voyage is generally from two to three months. For this reason it is necessary not to put more than 200 soldiers upon a ship of about 300 tons. For these ships the merchants usually pay 25 ducats a ton for the journey out and home, of which they reckon 16 for the journey out. The price of hire for transit may be raised according to various accidents. In Dutch ships, which are, however, worse armed, the voyage would cost less, but to obtain the whole number there would cause too much bad feeling here. Those who wish to serve your Serenity chiefly desire that if the Spaniards wish to make war on your Serenity they may be allowed to treat them as enemies on the voyage out. With regard to the payment of the troops, they would be satisfied with the wages which they received in the Low Countries, according to the enclosed note. To a large extent the same soldiers could be obtained; they can be more easily obtained and it would probably be both for their own satisfaction and that of your Serenity. The captains claim a capitation fee of 5 or 6 crowns for taking the soldiers to the ships, but upon this head it might be well to consider if it be not necessary to cut down these claims. They ask for a sum of about 12 ducats to clothe the soldiers and of 6 or 7 to arm them, or else that arms be given them and consigned to the captains, to restore them to your Serenity after they have used them. It is usual to give a fourth part of the pay in advance. Owing to the length of the voyage they also claim that some consideration shall be taken about dismissing them, so that there may be some provision for their return, or some obligation to maintain them for a certain time. They have suggested a year to me, saying that if your Serenity did not need to employ them, you would not incur the expense necessary for their passage.

Lord Dingwall, a leading Scotch lord at this court, high in favour with the king, has always cherished a strong desire to serve your Serenity. He has offered himself to me for this service, to take 6,000 infantry or 1,000 cavalry from England, Scotland and Ireland, in all of which countries he enjoys the highest consideration, to serve your good pleasure, and he has the notion of going himself to offer his services to your Serenity.

I have received the letters for Sir [Henry] Wotton and will send off the courier, who is Giovanni Battista Tasso. I have given him orders to take the route through Paris, and thence through Lorraine and Switzerland, avoiding Flanders and Milan, where he has met with difficulties. Though this is longer it is much easier and safer. He has begged me to inform your Serenity of this, as also that he had to stop two days at Calais on his way here as he could not cross the sea, while even now it is difficult. I have given him 200 ducats, which your Serenity may order to be put in the account.

When I was about to seal these presents I received the letters of your Serenity of the 26th and 28th ult., containing the information about the armistice for two months and of the conditions upon which it was made. I will communicate all this to His Majesty as soon as possible.

London, the 20th April, 1616.

*[Italian: the part in italics deciphered.]*

1616.  
April 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**258.** PIERO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The English ambassador and the duke of Sully arrived yesterday at Loudun. They report that although the people of la Rochelle are not entirely satisfied with what has been arranged, especially in postponing to another time the declaration upon the first article of the third state, yet they approve all that the prince has arranged, and do not wish the peace to be prevented on their account.

Tours, the 20th April, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

April 22.  
Senato,  
Mar.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**259.** The Proveditori of the Arsenal have arranged with Henry Parvis, an English merchant in this city, who undertakes to consign immediately in the house at his own charge soft English lead in small vessels, about a hundred *miaro* good and sufficient, to the satisfaction of that house, to be paid 41½ ducats the *miaro*; he shall be released from the custom on the lead, for which he will abate 2 per cent. of the tare, and shall be paid when the lead is duly consigned.

Ayes 152.

Noes 2.

Neutral 8.

[*Italian.*]

April 22.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**260.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary sent to Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*M. Vandermyle, who was ambassador with your Serenity, told me in confidence that you may assure yourselves of every good will on this side. The way by sea is easy; it would be as well to form a confederation between all the princes who have dominion over the sea. Barneveldt and the Prince would welcome this and so would most of the others, although there has been some diversity of opinion hitherto, but it would not matter if these few stood out or joined in. Your Excellencies' proposals would always be well received by the States, and it was not necessary to treat through the intermediary of others. I understood him to mean the king of England in particular, as they do not care to have negotiations carried on with them, through others, making it appear to the world that they are somewhat dependent upon others.*

I returned to the Hague yesterday and reached this town to-day. Thence I shall proceed to Zeeland, where I shall await a favourable wind to transport me to England.

Dunquerque, the 22nd April, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

April 22.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**261.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

News has arrived from France of the settlement of the articles of peace between their Most Christian Majesties and the prince of Condé; that the prince would not sign them before they had been

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seen by the assembly of the Huguenots at la Rochelle. Accordingly the English ambassador and the duke of Sully proceeded thither to induce them to accept. All this has been heard with the utmost satisfaction, as they attribute the success of the accommodation to the interposition of the king here and the work of his ambassador. It is thought that the assembly will accept the articles, although some of them seemed very shy of doing so, owing to their fear lest they should suffer some prejudice after the composition, as the movement made by the duke (*sic*) of Gramont during the armistice against M. de la Force in Bearn created a very bad impression in their minds. We hear from there that M. de Candale, after declaring himself a Huguenot, published a pamphlet stating the reasons why he had changed his religion, in which it certainly might be wished that he had delivered himself more moderately. This has been condemned by the Parliament of Toulouse and burned by the public executioner, according to the custom in France. The same thing was done at la Rochelle by order of that Parliament.

The duke of Mayenne and the duke of Vendôme have offered 12,000 foot and 1,600 horse to the duke of Savoy, and the duke of Rohan and M. de Soubise, his brother, with various other leading lords, have sent to make offers to His Highness. It is thought that this has been done not only because of their friendly disposition towards the duke and that the treaty of Asti may be executed as the prince of Condé has demanded in his proposals, but also because by overcoming the reputation and strength of the Spaniards they may increase their authority in France, and in this way maintain at the expense of others those troops by which they may always secure themselves and the effectuation of what is now being settled.

The queen mother has told the Ambassador Edmondes of her decision to send M. de Bethune, son of M. de Sully, to Piedmont, and to require that the treaty of Asti be carried out; and she also thinks of sending some other person of distinction to interpose in the affairs of your Serenity with the Archduke Ferdinand.

The Spanish ambassador has returned here to tell the Secretary Winwood that the treaty will be executed at Milan, and that His Catholic Majesty desires it to be done. The agent of His Majesty at Madrid having made the same demands in the name of his king to His Catholic Majesty, was told most emphatically that the king desires disarmament at Milan and the complete execution of the treaty.

The ambassador of Savoy has fresh news from the duke that his suspicions are continually increased by the augmentation of the forces at Milan and by the determination of the Governor not to execute the treaty, so that it behoves him to arm and provide for the safety of his states. He came to see me yesterday and told me that he had seen the Secretary Winwood and had clearly told him of all these things, and of the necessity for the duke to arm in his own defence, and the impossibility of doing so owing to the scarcity of money. He said that the Governor of Milan ought to disarm, and that in France, now that the agreement is settled, they will certainly do something, and in any case, both here and everywhere else, the end will be seen. The same ambassador added that it was desirable and should be sought, that before all these forces

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are disbanded in France, and if matters are negotiated speedily they will afford great assistance also to the good conduct of the negotiations of your Serenity with the Archduke Ferdinand; that this time of an armistice was the moment for negotiations, which are equally in need of being sustained by force and reputation as by war itself.

I applauded his views, and said he did well to insist as warmly as possible upon disarmament, the more so because this last offer of your Serenity to suspend operations removes the false and hollow pretext that the Governor of Milan is arming because of your Excellencies. This would give him fresh reason to consider and to strengthen his instances. He told me that he had thought of this, and will not fail to do so. I have asked audience of His Majesty, and as soon as he has granted it I will fulfil the commands of your Serenity.

London, the 22nd April, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

April 26.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**262.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The agent of France keeps importuning the duke not to arm and asking for leave to go to Don Pedro to introduce fresh negotiations, for which he says he has commissions from Their Most Christian Majesties. His Highness recognises that this is an artifice to imperil his affairs. Accordingly he postpones a decision. However, to-day he summoned his council and desired that I and the minister of Great Britain should attend also. In the presence of all he asked what commissions he had. He said he was simply told to discover the intentions of Don Pedro and to assure His Highness that his states should not be attacked. When the duke remarked that the treaty of Asti provided that no attack or suspicion should be given to neighbouring princes, the agent replied that he had no instructions upon this, that Their Majesties commanded him to reassure His Highness, but no more. This so disgusted the duke that without any further proceedings he dismissed the agent and all the rest of us. I do not know what the outcome may be, but His Highness has declared that whether the agent goes to Milan or no, he will arm and join his fortune to that of the republic.

Turin, the 26th April, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

April 27.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**263.** VINCENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassador destined for France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*Among various conversations which I had at different times with the margrave of Anspach, he asked me how it was that the republic, while recognising the prejudice caused by the greatness of Spain and of all the House of Austria, did not think of joining those European powers, who by their confederation endeavour to balance the Austrian power. He mentioned the king of England, the States, the United Princes of Germany and the duke of Savoy. I said that your Serenity*

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*fully recognised the value of the friendship of all these powers, with whom it would always have friendly relations. At the present time the chief consideration with your Serenity was the opening of the passes, and when that is secure the republic will be free to take other resolutions. He said that the duke of Savoy could make a powerful diversion if matters went further with the archduke and the Spaniards intervened, and I have heard from one of the principal ministers that the king of England, the States and all the princes will afford assistance to the duke of Savoy to make war on the state of Milan, if they think it will please the republic, as otherwise they will do nothing.*

Anspach, the 27th April, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

April 27. **264.** PIETRO VICO, Venetian Secretary in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

*A book has appeared here, printed in England, in which the author proves that the present pope was not elected in the ordinary way in the consistory of Cardinals, and that he ought not to be considered as a legitimate pope. The nuncio has obtained the king's authority to destroy all copies, those possessing them being considered guilty of high treason as well as excommunicate. The nuncio so far has obtained five or six copies and has sent them to the Cardinal Borghese at Rome.*

Madrid, the 27th April, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

April 27. **265.** ANTONIO MARIA VINCENTI, Venetian Resident at Milan, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Milano.  
Venetian  
Archives.

The Governor has given orders that the agent of France, resident at Turin, who is expected here this evening, shall be lodged and entertained at the palace. The ambassador of France is also expected and news has come that Sir [Henry] Wotton, who is returning to reside with your Excellencies, will travel by way of Turin and will come here and pass on to Mantua, to negotiate upon the current affairs and procure the execution of the treaty of Asti, to satisfy the instances of the duke of Savoy.

News from France relates that the Huguenots raised some difficulties about the reply given by His Most Christian Majesty to their petition, and that the English ambassador and Sully have gone to remove them and the conclusion of the peace has been postponed on that account.

Milan, the 27th April, 1616.

[Italian.]

April 27. **266.** CHRISTOFFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary with the Swiss, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Svizzeri.  
Venetian  
Archives.

Gio. Battista Tassis, the courier of your Serenity, has arrived here from England with letters of the Ambassador Barbarigo enclosing one addressed to Sir Henry Wotton, to whom I am instructed to deliver it if he comes this way; and telling me what I am to do.

Zurich, the 27th April, 1616.

[Italian.]

1616.  
April 30.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**267.** PIERO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have not been to the prince or even sent the secretary to him, as it would be of no use when he is not at Court. I have not, however, neglected to inform him and the others, in a very confidential manner, of the union of Gueffier with the Spanish ministers for closing the passes. Bouillon has spoken somewhat warmly about it to Villeroy, but obtained nothing definite from him. Those proceedings are condemned by everyone here and the ambassadors of England, Holland and Berne, to whom I have spoken about it, consider it exceedingly bad, and are willing to make complaints, as they are unwilling that the ambitions of Spain should encounter no obstacle.

Blois, the 30th April, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

May 2.  
Consiglio di X.  
Parti  
Communi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**268.** That the Baron Francesso and his brother Trojano Furietti be released from the banishment pronounced against them on 6 February, 1612, if they take a troop of 150 men to serve under the Proveditore General in Terra Firma at their own expense for the space of six months.

|         |    |                   |    |
|---------|----|-------------------|----|
| Ayes    | 8. | Second vote, Ayes | 8. |
| Noes    | 0. | Noes              | 0. |
| Neutral | 7. | Neutral           | 7. |

Proposed with some additions that they be not enrolled in service for four months.

|         |     |
|---------|-----|
| Ayes    | 12. |
| Noes    | 0.  |
| Neutral | 3.  |

[*Italian.*]

May 5.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**269.** To the AMBASSADOR at the Imperial Court and to the other Courts.

The archducal forces have raided Istria and sold the prisoners to the Turks. The General Traumestorf has crossed the Lisonzo and established himself at Lucinis. The Proveditore General has therefore been forced to move and has scoured the country as far as Gradisca, where he attacked the enemy's camp, and captured a quantity of booty. He afterwards drew out in battle array to challenge the archducal forces to a fight, but they made no movement, and therefore the Proveditore withdrew to his original position.

To England, the Hague and Turin add: You will relate all this in audience to His Majesty (His Highness or the States) as a sign of our continued confidence.

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| Ayes    | 152. |
| Noes    | 0.   |
| Neutral | 3.   |

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By deliberation of the Senate of the 7th May, the following was added :

To give greater vigour and more system to our forces we have chosen a Proveditore for our armies in Istria and one for the field.

To Rome, Constantinople, France, Spain, England, Turin, the States, the Grisons, Zurich, Florence, Naples, Milan, Mantua, the Proveditore beyond the Menzo.

[*Italian.*]

May 6.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**270.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The king returned to London last Saturday and on Monday I had audience of His Majesty to inform him according to the instructions sent to me on the 26th and 28th March about the orders given to the Proveditore General to withdraw the troops from Gradisca. But as I had not been able to execute the preceding instructions and give him the earlier information, when I only spoke to the Secretary Winwood, I thought it right to touch briefly upon those things. I told His Majesty that your Serenity daily recognised more fully the excellent disposition of His Majesty towards you, and had from time to time instructed me to inform him of what was taking place; that besides much which I had told him at other times I had already communicated many things to the Secretary Winwood, and I had to tell him the rest. I went on to say that your Excellencies saw no results from your negotiations at Prague with the Archduke Ferdinand, as they daily made new provisions and inflicted fresh damage, and for your own safety it was necessary that you should turn against those places from which the attack chiefly came. I then informed him of the progress of the siege of Gradisca and of what had happened in Istria and especially of the capture of Bressae behind Moschenazzi in Dalmatia by the Proveditore General. I further told him that while these events were taking place the emperor had written to the Grand Duke of Tuscany and the duke of Mantua to interpose. Those princes had at once sent to your Excellencies to inform you of all this and offer their services, informing you of the friendly exhortations of the pope and of what the governor of Milan had said in particular and had offered, and suggesting that at the conditions proposed your Serenity should raise the siege of Gradisca. I expressed very clearly the particulars which your Serenity gave me of this affair, because the Spanish ambassador does all he can to spread the merits of his own side and goes about publishing grave threats and resolutions of the governor of Milan against your Serenity of preparations he is making to invade your state if you do not withdraw from that siege. In addition to this, seeing that the Spaniards constantly assert, when they are approached about carrying out the treaty of Asti, that owing to the movements of your Serenity they cannot disarm the state of Milan, I thought it well to first mention to His Majesty that in addition to all other respects which had induced you to think fit to remove the camp from Gradisca, there was this additional advantage, besides the benefit of the general peace, that this demonstration of goodwill removed the



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pretext, vain and false as it is, that the Spaniards must remain armed in the state of Milan because of you, and therefore they must of necessity perform what they have promised, and disarm effectively or else show openly that their aims are altogether different from what they protest. The Spanish ambassador has said here, and the same has been said in France, according to the report of His Most Christian Majesty's ambassador here, that the governor of Milan had to arm because of the progress of your Serenity against the archduke Ferdinand, but now that the camp has been withdrawn from Gradisca, and every ground for this pretext has disappeared, it would become the great influence and prudence of His Majesty to refute these hollow arguments and to induce France to insist warmly upon the disarmament of the state of Milan. I concluded that your Serenity by this last exhibition of your goodwill had greatly eased the general situation and you hoped at least to gather the fruit, as if the proposals made were advanced honestly it would be necessary to hasten their effectuation so that there might be no reason for change. It was all the more necessary to make provision and that His Majesty by his own strength and authority should make known how much he had at heart the preservation of the general liberty of all the powers united and engaged with this crown, and the defence of the just cause of your Serenity, as it was too dangerous and contrary to all reason to say nothing of the promises made, to keep on foot and to augment an army in Italy, and further to find an excuse to levy another on the side of Germany, with such consequences as might follow to His Majesty, which are well known especially at the present conjunction with the negotiations for a successor to the Emperor. I enlarged upon all this where I thought fit and where I found that His Majesty listened most readily.

I afterwards thanked His Majesty for the offices performed by the Secretary Winwood for the execution of the treaty of Asti and for the orders sent to France; for the favour shown by the Ambassador Carleton to my secretary at the Hague and for the instructions sent to the Ambassador Wotton to co-operate in the negotiations with the Grisons, about which I had received some notice in the last letters of Sig. Giovanni Antonio Padavino of the opposition of the French and Spaniards in those parts. I thought well to say a word about it to His Majesty, saying that his offices would be the more welcome the greater the opposition on the other side. When the king heard of the opposition of France he smiled in a peculiar manner, expressive of his manifest disgust, which gives me cause to hope that he will assist the offices of the Ambassador Bon in France as your Serenity desires.

The king replied that he was greatly rejoiced to hear of the complete demonstration of goodwill made by your Serenity, which was so great that if he had had to treat, he would never have ventured to ask it, but which was so much the greater and the more fully expressed your good intentions. Those who did not respond to this would be so much the more in the wrong, and he would not fail to help your Serenity in every possible way. He spoke at length about his goodwill, to which I replied with suitable thanks, saying that His Majesty should act so that these good dispositions

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might produce good fruit and not rather serve the enemy by permitting them to dispose their affairs better. Nothing would prove more advantageous in every place that the affairs of all the parties should no longer remain irresolute to the common prejudice. The king replied that it was necessary to act so, with various other expressions of his goodwill. He agreed that your Excellencies by acceding to the requests made to you by the governor of Milan, had deprived him of every imaginable pretext for remaining armed and he would not fail to do everything to secure the carrying out of the treaty of Asti, and if what your Serenity has done does not produce the good result which ought to be expected, he will always be ready to justify your just cause and render assistance.

When I took leave he told me that Lord Dingwall had informed him of his inclination, of which he had spoken to me, of coming to offer his services to your Serenity, His Majesty had been greatly pleased at this, because he was one of his oldest servants, brought up with him from the eighth or ninth year of his age, a man of great worth and merit, from whom your Excellencies would certainly receive the best service.

London, the 6th May, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

May 6.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disposci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**271.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The king left the day before yesterday for Thetford, 30 miles beyond Newmarket, after having celebrated the feast of St. George, and created the Earl of Rutland knight of the Garter, as well as Sir [George] Villiers, a high favourite of His Majesty.\* The same day I received the letters of your Serenity of the 9th and 14th ult. with the commissions and information. I sent my secretary immediately to the Lord Chamberlain to inform him that I had instructions from your Excellencies to pay my respects to His Majesty, and asked the favour of a brief audience, where it would be most convenient for His Majesty, whom I would not fail to follow. After the Chamberlain had spoken to the king, he told my secretary that as His Majesty was going to set out immediately after dinner he would send the Secretary Winwood to see me to hear your Serenity's wishes. Accordingly he came, and I told him about the mission of Sig. Bon as ambassador extraordinary to France to counteract the sinister offices of the French ministers in the Grisons and among the Swiss, believing that this mission would assure Their Majesties of what service it would be to their kingdom and would be a return to the friendship always shown by your Serenity, the question being so just and simply for the sake of defence, informing the king and queen that your Excellencies are acting simply for the general convenience of this province and in nowise contrary to their interests, but that it is rather for the advantage of their crown that the gate should remain open for foreign assistance. I also told him that the ambassador was

\* John Chamberlain remarks on the strangeness of these creations. Birch: *Court and Times of James I*, i. p. 400.

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equally instructed to keep a good understanding with the ministers of the duke of Savoy and to assist the interests of His Highness not only with Their Most Christian Majesties but with the Princes in particular. I enlarged upon all this and begged His Majesty to give instructions to his ministers in the court of France to add the authority of their officers to the instances of your Excellencies.

The Secretary Winwood replied that everything should be done at once and that instructions should be sent to the Ambassador Edmondes to maintain a good understanding with the ambassador of your Serenity, and, in accordance with what he says and desires, to make strong representations upon all these particulars to Their Majesties and the Princes, as desired by your Excellencies. I will not fail to acquaint the Ambassador Bon with all this, as well as your Serenity.

Last week the French ambassador said that he had received letters from his wife saying that everything had been settled in France, and that the king within two days of the date of that letter was to go to Paris, but since then he has had no further news, and remains in doubt and expectancy. M. de Boislorée said he had letters from the prince warning him not to believe any news except what comes in his own letters. M. de Courtenay, who came to mass here last Sunday, told me that he had no news from France, but it is certain that so long as the Government remains in the hands of such persons as have exercised it hitherto, there will always be disturbances, but if the princes have authority in the State and by their presence determine the course of the Government, receive letters and send the necessary instructions, the administration will then be in accordance with the proper interests of the kingdom of France and with the benefit of the old friends of that crown. That the ruin of everything hangs in the balance since great questions are decided by two or three heads only, that if they speak to the king he refers everything to these ministers, who, besides doing everything as it pleases their fancy, only report upon what they are inclined to, and only mention such affairs as turn out well. That on this account the Princes are bound to publish everything upon which they treat, because in this way they have to proceed with somewhat more reserve, and it would be a good thing if the others who have matters to negotiate also made their negotiations known to others besides the Chancellor and those ministers to whom affairs are at present confined. He passed from this to express to me the excellent disposition of the prince of Condé towards your Serenity, and his intention to maintain the ancient and fruitful friendships of France.

From what I have advised in my preceding despatches your Excellencies will have gathered the excellent disposition of the princes of France towards the duke of Savoy. So far as I can see, they not only have the same sentiments towards your Serenity, but they will greatly esteem any office performed by your Serenity with them and would consider it as most advantageous for their reputation. As they have the best intentions towards the duke of Savoy, the offices of your Serenity in this matter will certainly be the better understood, while those of His Majesty here likewise cannot but prove most fruitful; but if the accommodation takes place, they

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will have numbers of troops to dispose of for the service of others, and they will do this very willingly when they see it will gratify your Serenity and the service of the duke of Savoy; and as they cannot help with their money outside France they may easily, by the offer to send their troops to Piedmont, make a reciprocal request for payment by your Serenity and by the king here. His Majesty is certain to be most keenly interested in the offices, so that it will be well for him to receive as much provocation as possible to follow up this line of conduct, since His Majesty cannot help the duke of Savoy to maintain the treaty of Asti in a better manner than by supplying money to France, as he showed that he ought to do, and he had already begun to do so when on a previous occasion he sent money to the duke of Mayenne to send troops to Piedmont.

At present the ambassador is preferring requests in this sense. In the audience which he had on Monday after me, His Majesty told him that he meant the treaty of Asti to be carried out at all costs, otherwise he would declare war on the king of Spain. But the greatest difficulty which His Majesty will encounter in all important decisions will be the scarcity of money, which there seems no sufficient means of obtaining without summoning a parliament.

It is generally considered as certain here that the places will be restored to the Dutch and that this will take place fairly soon. If this happen the money may be of some importance, especially as some part is reserved to be paid after a time, and if His Majesty place the ready money at the disposition of a third party it might possibly not prove difficult to persuade the States to hasten on the instalments if they knew that the money would be employed in the service of the general liberty and to prevent the overweening greatness of Spain.

At the same time rumour is rife about the marriage of the prince here with Spain, which is much discussed. At his court and in the queen's circle they talk about it more than ever. However, it is thought that it will be more easy to negotiate than to conclude anything, and that the king is not sorry that credence is given to it, because the announcement that His Majesty will receive a large sum of money from the Catholic king with his daughter, for her dower, and large assignments for the maintenance of the bride, may be a stimulus to the realm, which generally abhors this union, to make provision for the current needs and for the expense which it will be necessary to incur in setting up the prince's household (*sono tuttavia grandi le voci et i discorsi del matrimonio di questo principe con Spagna, et nella sua corte, et in quella della regina se ne parla più che mai; tuttavia si giudica essere più facile il trattare che il concludere alcuna cosa, et che non dispiaccia al re, il farlo credere, perche pubblicandosi, che Sua Maestà deva con la figliuola ricevere grossa quantità di oro dal Re Cattolico, per la dote et grandi assegnamenti per sustenamento della sposa, dia eccitamento al Regno, che generalmente abborisce questo parentato, di fare così la provizione per i bisogni correnti, come per la spesa che doverà farsi nel levare la casa al Principe*).

My secretary has returned from the Hague. I need not add anything about his operations, as he will have informed your Serenity.

London, the 6th May, 1616.

[Italian.]

1616.  
May 6.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**272.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

With regard to the provision of powder by way of Holland, I encounter every day greater difficulties in the way of doing it at a reasonable price, below the value of 20 soldi the lira commanded by your Serenity. But besides what I have gathered and what my secretary has learned at Amsterdam, I am expecting the return of a leading merchant of this mart, who has been to Holland upon other affairs of his own. When I see him I shall be able to take the most advantageous decision possible. Here the scarcity becomes daily greater and the price higher; nevertheless, I will spare no efforts to obtain some quantity, and will send word of what I have been able to do.

Lord Dingwall, of whom I have already written to your Serenity that he thought of coming to Venice to offer his services, and of whom the king said to me what I reported in my last, said that he had decided to leave next week. After speaking with His Majesty and seeing the satisfaction with which he received the proposal, his intentions had been further spurred, as when he addressed the king with the familiarity which His Majesty's graciousness permits, saying that if he would grant him leave he wished to go and find another master, the king, aware of what was in his mind, told him that he was not allowing him to depart from his own service, because if he wished to go and serve your Serenity it would please him more than anything else which he could do, and other words of a like nature. He told me that he intended to make the journey with all diligence, as he thought that his services would be the more useful the sooner he could offer them, and it would be more easy to settle matters when he was there, and it would be easier to arrange for his work, the journey and the levying of the men in accordance with the wishes of your Serenity. If you decide to employ him he will return with the same diligence and fulfil your commands, and if the occasion for his services has passed, he will be no less glad to have shown his good intentions.

London, the 6th May, 1616.

[Italian.]

May 7.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**273.** DOMINICO DOMINICI, Venetian Resident in Florence, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*Although they do not say much here, out of respect for the archduchess, the feeling is largely in favour of your Serenity as against the archduke Ferdinand. They think the Spaniards are glad to see the republic harassed by the Uscocchi, because Venice is the sole obstacle to their ambitions in Italy, and they think the expenses will exhaust your resources. I am also told that the Spaniards think nothing of the troops which your Excellencies have hitherto employed, but they fear that you may have troops from France and England, and they suspect an understanding between the kings of England and France and the duke of Savoy.*

Florence, the 7th May, 1616.

[Italian ; deciphered.]

1616.

May 10.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**274. PIETRO VICO, Venetian Secretary in Spain, to the Doge and SENATE.**

*The ministers here have complained to the secretary of England that the duke of Savoy has begun to arm again, without any cause, and contrary to the treaty, and consequently his master ought to cease protecting him, seeing how little inclined he is to peace. The secretary replied that the duke complained that Don Pedro of Toledo was increasing his army with the purpose of taking the field, and he suspected some fresh attempt against his state, as they will not restore the places which the Spaniards hold, and he was placing himself in a posture of defence so as not to be taken by surprise. Seeing that the secretary was already prejudiced they have written to Don Diego Sermento in England, to make similar complaints to the king.*

Madrid, the 10th May, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

May 10.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**275. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The duke has shown me a long letter of his ambassador in London of the 18th ult. Although your Excellencies may have heard about it before, there are two particulars which I think it right to transmit. One is that Winwood, the king's minister, says that the republic has acted ill advisedly at this time and will have some difficulty in emerging with honour from her troubles. The other is that His Majesty was greatly offended at the recent refusal of his proposal for a league with him, and that a time may come when it will be necessary to beg for one. Winwood advises the duke to settle with Spain, though subsequently he offers means to make war on the state of Milan. In fine, the ambassador shows that they have only words, that there is great coldness and they cannot rely with any certainty upon anything in that quarter.

Turin, the 10th May, 1616.

[Italian.]

May 13.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**276. To the AMBASSADOR BARBARIGO in England.**

We received your letters of the 19th, 20th and 22nd ult. on the 3rd and 10th inst. With regard to the proposal of the Secretary Winwood to negotiate a league, that is a lengthy matter and involves difficulties. Therefore in order not to commit ourselves and not to offend His Majesty by an open negative you will say that our deliberations are taken cautiously; in the matter of the duke of Savoy the republic has already shown its disposition to help him, as at the levy of 4,000 French we granted that he might keep 2,000 of them in his State for a certain time and use them for his needs, we having supplied him with the money to levy them, just as we find their pay, while we are ready to do whatever else may be required. By such proceedings we have entered an alliance of hearts and interests, which will constitute a firm basis and produce good results. Similarly in the case of Mantua, without any settled alliance, we offered great support, as everyone

1616.

knows. His Majesty has already shown his disposition to protect the duke of Savoy and we are sure that he will continue to do so, especially with regard to the execution of the treaty of Asti. We are most grateful for the friendship which His Majesty has so frequently shown towards the republic. We should like to maintain this good understanding and union of hearts. You will go on to say that the present events demand speed, and his declarations will be of the greatest advantage to our interests, especially if laid before the court of Spain and elsewhere with such representations as befit his great authority.

The withdrawal of our troops from Gradisca was not by reason of the truce but to show our disposition to facilitate peace. This was not reciprocated by the archduke, who increased his activity. You will inform His Majesty of these particulars, informing him also of the negotiations of the Secretary Lionello at the Hague. You will thank the ambassador of the States for the goodwill displayed by his masters and especially for their proposals. You will express to the Secretary Lionello our satisfaction with the manner in which he has conducted these negotiations.

We send you a copy of the proposals of the Marshal Manriquez for your information.

You write that you understand from our letters that there is a truce for two months. This is not so. We wish to know whence this misconception has arisen.

Ayes 147.

Noes 4.

Neutral 7.

[*Italian.*]

May 18.

Senato,  
Secreta,  
Disparci,  
Inghilterra  
Venetian  
Archives.

**277.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have received your Serenity's letters of the 15th ult. with the decision upon the matter of the bandits and those of the 16th with information about levying the 4,000 infantry of M. de Châtillon.

From the letters of the Secretary Lionello your Excellencies will have understood how thoroughly he has executed with the States the instructions received from me in letters of the 26th February, with which I sent him, and those of the 23rd March, which I gave him before he set out for the Hague, after which he returned here and received the letters of your Serenity of the 22nd ult. with the information about current affairs with the archduke, to give them information upon some of the points, so that I have been able to give him the information before his departure. I had communicated the other things to M. Caron as a testimony of continued confidence, and I did not think it well to tell him more about these things of which I have received this last notice.

With regard to persons of ability and a captain of experience in war, besides the information which I got my secretary to take in Holland, I also gave instructions to another confidential person to take similar information in Flanders, where I hope to find some one who may wish to serve your Serenity.

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Yesterday morning I went to the Secretary Winwood to learn if His Majesty had written to his ambassador in France in conformity with the wishes of your Serenity, and to take the opportunity of asking that it might be done, if he had not, or at any rate to apply such a spur as I thought opportune in present affairs. He told me that they had written to the ambassador to assist the Most Excellent Bon in all his affairs, and that the same ambassador had received instructions long since to use all his efforts to procure the carrying out of the treaty of Asti. I did not fail to discourse upon the advisability of not losing the opportunity of the present accommodation, as the kingdom of France will enjoy greater reputation and authority now the armies gathered together during the disputes are still in being and the princes newly reconciled, the good disposition they have shown will give them greater authority, and time should not be given to allow fresh difficulties to obscure the present opportunity. He told me that everything had been done, and the ambassador had the fullest instructions, but he did not descend to further particulars, simply expressing the hope that everything would be happily settled.

I hear that Sir [Henry] Wotton has passed Heidelberg, so that he should now be near Piedmont and your Serenity will be the better able to discover the inclinations of His Majesty from the form of his negotiations in Italy, as it seems here they went minutely into everything not only before his departure, but according to a conversation which I had with the Secretary Winwood, whom I asked if they had heard anything of what he had done at Heidelberg and if Wotton had chanced to meet the Ambassador Gussoni. He told me that letters had not yet reached the king about his negotiations with the Elector Palatine, and that very soon Schomberg would be here, who is sent by that elector.

I must not omit to say that the princes of Germany will not look with satisfaction on the levying of the army in Germany such as the Spaniards have in the state of Milan, not only to oppose the just pretensions of your Serenity, but to be turned with ease to wherever it may be required. If Schomberg comes, his advent cannot fail to have an excellent effect, as he is a young man of experience and spirit, and from my knowledge of him at the court of the Palatine, more inclined to business than is usual in Germany. I will not lose an opportunity of engaging myself with him wherein I may hope for some advantage for the interests of your Serenity.

London, the 13th May, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

May 13.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**278.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The day before yesterday a courier arrived for the ambassador of France, who said that he had brought word of the complete settlement of the accommodation in France. As soon as he had received this, the ambassador sent to call upon the ambassador of Spain; the latter was just leaving his house and went to visit the French ambassador, who told him the news, saying that he wished to impart this information to him before anyone else. He left yesterday



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morning to go and see His Majesty, and I think he will find him at Newmarket, to acquaint him with these advices, of which, however, M. de Courtenay has not as yet received any notice.

The proposed recovery of the cautionary towns by the States has been completely settled, and they are to be restored on the last day of May, reckoning by the calendar here. By that time the States are to pay a sum of 150,000*l.* sterling, equivalent to about 600,000 crowns, and the remainder of the debt is to be paid within a year and a half in three instalments, one every six months. The greater part of the first payment will be swallowed up by the various debts of His Majesty and in giving rewards and favours to many who are expecting them, so that I think it hardly likely that the ambassador of Savoy can hope to obtain any assignment for the needs of His Highness, and I think it more probable that he will direct his effort to asking that something of the instalments to come may be put at the disposal of His Highness, as a request that presents less difficulties. Of the first money His Majesty has appointed various donations for Viscount Lisle, who was governor of Flushing, and for others who have served in those towns. To guard these towns and satisfy certain individuals the States have decided to levy another regiment of English of 1,000 foot, of which the son of this same Viscount Lisle is to be colonel.\*

Lord Hay [*Hais*] continues his preparations for the embassy of France, with an extraordinarily sumptuous train, so that many look unfavourably upon his mission owing to his pressing request for money from His Majesty.

Lord Roos is destined for Spain, and he is almost certain to go there. I understand that he is very gratified at receiving this charge, although he cannot hide from himself that it will be entirely at his own expense.

Lord Dingwall (*Inquel*) leaves to-morrow to go and pay his respects to your Serenity and offer his services. He has just been to see me and asked me to write to your Excellencies that he is bringing letters from His Majesty to serve as a testimony and a surety that he will faithfully fulfil his promises, having so great a guarantee behind him as His Majesty; for the rest, he desires no other road to the favour of your Serenity than his own services and merit.

London, the 13th May, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

May 13.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**279.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

In accordance with the commands of your Serenity I send the account of the expenses of the mission of my secretary to Holland, and of other expenses for carrying letters.

London, the 13th May, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

\* Lisle was to have 1,200*l.* a year for life, Sir Horace Vere 800*l.* and Sir Edward Conway 500*l.* also for life. Birch, *Court and Times of James I.*, i. p. 401. The English garrisons were to be converted into two regiments to be commanded by Lord Lisle's son, Sir Robert Sidney and by Sir Horace Vere, and were to serve the States. Motley, *Life and Death of John of Barneveld*, ii. p. 73.

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Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**280. THE ACCOUNT.**

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                   | <i>pounds. shillings.</i> |          |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
|                | By sending the packet back to the courier,<br>one crown - - - - -                                                                                                                 | 7                         |          |
| 9 March.       | Made good to M. Guazzo for expenses in<br>going to Newmarket for audience -                                                                                                       | 31                        | 12       |
| „              | Made good to Francesco di Negri for<br>expenses in coming post to New-<br>market with a packet of letters -                                                                       | 92                        | 16       |
|                | To the post for letters from France -                                                                                                                                             |                           | 18       |
|                | By letters from the Hague - - -                                                                                                                                                   | 2                         | 2        |
|                | By sending the packet back, the courier,<br>a crown - - - - -                                                                                                                     | 7                         |          |
|                | By letters from the Hague - - -                                                                                                                                                   | 2                         | 16       |
| 18 April.      | To the servant of the Secretary of State<br>for letters from the Hague, a gold<br>crown - - - - -                                                                                 | 8                         | 14       |
| 19 „           | By cash to Giovanni Battista Tassio,<br>courier upon account of his return<br>to Venice, 200 ducats - - -                                                                         | 1240                      | —        |
| 1 May.         | By cash to M. Matthew de Questar,<br>master of the post in London, for<br>letters from Antwerp and elsewhere,<br>49 crowns, 1 lira, 8 soldi -                                     | 344                       | 8        |
|                | To the same for a courier sent to the<br>Hague, 20 crowns - - - -                                                                                                                 | 140                       |          |
|                | To the bearers of various letters - -                                                                                                                                             | 14                        |          |
|                | By letters from the Hague - - -                                                                                                                                                   | 1                         | 8        |
|                | By a messenger sent with letters from the<br>Cavalier Loener, half a crown -                                                                                                      | 3                         | 10       |
|                | Made good to Sig. Giovanni Battista<br>Lionello, my secretary, for expenses<br>on the journey to Holland, as by his<br>account enclosed, 198 ducats, 1 lira,<br>4 soldi - - - - - | 1228                      | 16       |
|                | By letters from France - - - -                                                                                                                                                    | 1                         | 8        |
| <b>Total</b> - |                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>8126</b>               | <b>8</b> |

**281. Account of expenses of GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO in going to Holland and returning.**

|                                                          | <i>shillings. pence.</i> |   |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| By boat to Gravesend - - - - -                           | 8                        |   |
| By hostelry at Gravesend - - - -                         | 9                        | 6 |
| Boneman - - - - -                                        | 1                        |   |
| By four horses to Rochester - - -                        | 6                        |   |
| To the postillion - - - - -                              | 1                        | 2 |
| By four horses to Sittingbourne ( <i>Schintimber</i> ) - | 10                       |   |
| To the postillion - - - - -                              | 1                        |   |
| By four horses to Canterbury - -                         | 12                       |   |
| To the postillion - - - - -                              | 1                        |   |

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|                                                  | <i>shillings.</i> | <i>pence.</i> |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| By the hostelry at Canterbury - - -              | 9                 |               |
| At the church at Canterbury - - -                | 2                 |               |
| Boneman - - - - -                                | 1                 |               |
| By four horses to Dover - - -                    | 12                |               |
| By hostelry of three meals at Dover - -          | 29                | 6             |
| By passport - - - - -                            | 4                 |               |
| By other official things - - - - -               | 3                 |               |
| By porters - - - - -                             | 1                 | 6             |
| By a boat to go to the ship - - - - -            | 1                 | 6             |
| By boarding the ship - - - - -                   | 1                 | 6             |
| By the ship - - - - -                            | 34                |               |
| By a boat at Calais - - - - -                    | 2                 |               |
| By porters - - - - -                             | 1                 | 6             |
| By hostelry of 2 meals at Calais - - -           | 14                |               |
| By Boneman - - - - -                             | 1                 |               |
| By Guards of French at Calais - - -              | 4                 |               |
| By four horses to Dunkirk - - - - -              | 24                |               |
| To the postillion - - - - -                      | 2                 |               |
| By the inn at Dunkirk - - - - -                  | 11                |               |
| By four horses to Ghent, two days - -            | 72                |               |
| By inn on the journey - - - - -                  | 3                 | 6             |
| By inn at Nieuport - - - - -                     | 12                |               |
| By Boneman - - - - -                             | 1                 |               |
| By crossing a stream - - - - -                   | 1                 |               |
| By inn at Bruges - - - - -                       | 13                | 8             |
| By Boneman - - - - -                             | 1                 |               |
| By inn at Ghent - - - - -                        | 14                | 6             |
| By Boneman - - - - -                             | 1                 |               |
| To the postillion - - - - -                      | 4                 | 9             |
| By coach to Brussels - - - - -                   | 23                | 6             |
| By inn at Alost ( <i>Ost</i> ) - - - - -         | 9                 |               |
| By inn at Brussels - - - - -                     | 9                 |               |
| By Boneman - - - - -                             | 1                 |               |
| By porters - - - - -                             | 2                 |               |
| By boat and customs at Antwerp - - -             | 9                 |               |
| By food that day - - - - -                       | 2                 |               |
| By changing boats five times that day -          | 1                 |               |
| By porters - - - - -                             | 1                 | 6             |
| By inn at Antwerp, 21 meals - - - -              | 25                |               |
| By Boneman - - - - -                             | 2                 |               |
| By coach to Zevenbergen ( <i>Cinemberg</i> ) -   | 20                |               |
| By crossing a stream - - - - -                   | 2                 |               |
| The inn of two meals at Zevenbergen -            | 17                |               |
| By Boneman - - - - -                             | 1                 |               |
| By boat at Dort - - - - -                        | 8                 |               |
| By porters - - - - -                             | 1                 |               |
| By inn at Dort - - - - -                         | 13                |               |
| By Boneman - - - - -                             | 1                 | 8             |
| By crossing two rivers in a sailing boat -       | 3                 |               |
| By carriage of goods at different times that day | 2                 | 8             |
| By coach to Rotterdam - - - - -                  | 7                 |               |
| By inn at Rotterdam - - - - -                    | 8                 |               |

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|                                                                             | <i>shillings.</i> | <i>pence.</i> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| By Boneman - - - - -                                                        | 1                 |               |
| By boat at Delft - - - - -                                                  | 4                 |               |
| By coach to the Hague - - - - -                                             | 4                 | 1             |
| By 16 Jacobus spent in certain places of<br>Flanders at, 14 pence - - - - - | 18                | 8             |
| Repaid for petty expenses - - - - -                                         | 8                 |               |
| Repaid to the aforesaid for petty expenses - - - - -                        | 4                 |               |
| By cost of paper, wax, ink, string and iron<br>filings - - - - -            | 5                 | 6             |
| By sending letters to Antwerp - - - - -                                     | 4                 |               |
| By letters from England - - - - -                                           | 6                 |               |
| By sending letters to Antwerp - - - - -                                     | 4                 | 6             |
| By coach to Leyden - - - - -                                                | 7                 |               |
| By boat to Amsterdam - - - - -                                              | 6                 |               |
| By food in the boat - - - - -                                               | 2                 |               |
| By inn of four meals at Amsterdam - - - - -                                 | 43                |               |
| By Boneman - - - - -                                                        | 2                 |               |
| By coach to Haarlem - - - - -                                               | 4                 |               |
| At Haarlem - - - - -                                                        | 3                 |               |
| By coach to the Hague - - - - -                                             | 16                |               |
| By passing a stream - - - - -                                               | 1                 |               |
| By sending letters to Antwerp - - - - -                                     | 4                 |               |
| By gifts to certain servants of the States - - - - -                        | 11                |               |
| Expenses for Antonio at the Hague while he<br>was sick - - - - -            | 46                |               |
| To the daughter of the host at the Hague - - - - -                          | 22                |               |
| To the servants of the inn, cook and chamber-<br>maid - - - - -             | 17                |               |
| From the Hague to Rotterdam - - - - -                                       | 5                 |               |
| By inn at Rotterdam - - - - -                                               | 9                 |               |
| By Boneman - - - - -                                                        | 1                 |               |
| By porters - - - - -                                                        |                   | 8             |
| By wine - - - - -                                                           |                   | 20            |
| By boat to Dort - - - - -                                                   | 5                 |               |
| By porters - - - - -                                                        | 1                 | 6             |
| By messenger post with letters to Antwerp - - - - -                         | 16                |               |
| By inn, four meals, at Dort - - - - -                                       | 42                |               |
| By Boneman - - - - -                                                        | 2                 |               |
| By provision of food in the boat to Zeeland - - - - -                       | 9                 |               |
| By boat to Zeeland - - - - -                                                | 8                 |               |
| By porters to Veere ( <i>Var</i> ) - - - - -                                | 1                 |               |
| By coach to Middelburg - - - - -                                            | 2                 |               |
| By coach to Flushing - - - - -                                              | 2                 |               |
| By inn for four days at Flushing - - - - -                                  | 62                |               |
| By provision of food for the sea - - - - -                                  | 10                |               |
| By going to the ship - - - - -                                              | 2                 |               |
| By boat and porters returning to the inn<br>because of the sea - - - - -    | 2                 | 6             |
| By two meals at the same inn - - - - -                                      | 12                |               |
| By Boneman - - - - -                                                        | 3                 |               |
| By returning to the ship - - - - -                                          | 2                 |               |
| By hire of the ship - - - - -                                               | 24                |               |

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|                    |           | <i>shillings.</i> | <i>pence.</i> |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|
| Boneman to boatmen | - - - - - | 2                 |               |
| By boat to London  | - - - - - |                   | 6             |
| Grand Total        | -         | 971               | 6             |

225 ducats 8 grossi.

[*Italian.*]

May 14.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Candia,  
Proveditore.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**282.** PIERO BONDUMIER, Proveditore General of Candia, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Pirate vessels continue to make themselves felt, not only in the seas of Alexandria and the Archipelago, but they even take refuge in the ports and on the coasts of this kingdom. Three of them, armed at Malta were here a few days ago, and two of them got wrecked on the coast. A part of the crews was recovered by the third, which went to Syria, where it landed fifty-one men. They have been sent here by the rector of Syria and I have decided to send forty-seven of them to the armed galleys, and the other four I have sent to the galley of Sig. Lorenzo Moresini.

Candia, the 16th May, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**283.** Examination of ANTONIO PIN, a Sicilian, mariner of a small Maltese tartana on May 1st, which arrived at Sacro yesterday morning.

We left Malta with two other ships to go cruising in the Levant towards Famiata. At Caluslimiones we stopped for water. We left the same evening, and perceiving a sail we gave chase. In doing so the two larger vessels ran on shore near the salt pits of Famiata. A part of their crews of 200 was rescued by the tartana. The captain of the tartana landed 51 of the crews of their vessels because he could not maintain so many. The captain of all the vessels was called Pierre Nicolas de la Bottognera, a Frenchman, the two large vessels were commanded by Frenchmen. The two large vessels carried about 100 persons each, while the tartana had 60 on board. They were mostly French, with Sicilians, Maltese, Flemings, English and other nations.

[*Italian.*]

May 16.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**284.** PIERO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The English ambassador has returned to Court. He has worked hard upon the treaty with the prince, and certainly the greater part of the credit of the peace may be attributed to him. He told me that he had special orders from his king to speak here strongly in favour of your Excellencies in the affair of the Grisons, and he would do so very readily, as he knows how important it is for the common interest and the liberty of Italy that the pass there should remain open for help.

Paris, the 16th May, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

1616.

May 16.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Svizzeri.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**285.** GIO. BATTISTA PADAVIN and CHRISTOFFORO SURIAN,  
Venetian Secretaries with the Swiss, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Sir [Henry] Wotton was at Basel on Tuesday week. He left there saying that he was going to Milan and Turin to arrange for the establishment of the treaty of Asti, and would afterwards proceed straight to reside with your Serenity.

Zurich, the 19th May, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

May 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**286.** PIETRO VICO, Venetian Secretary in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Spaniards are much disturbed at the news of the league between the Dutch and the Hanse towns, as they fear that they will establish themselves in the Indies by this means. They have devoted much thought to providing some remedy, and have selected forty captains to enlist men, and will send them out as soon as possible. They have also ordered the Viceroy to send them all foreigners who are at present in their towns, an order which is to be rigorously carried out.

The secretary of England has made grave complaint because under pretext of a denunciation by an unknown person the property has been sequestered of English merchants who bring to these kingdoms, against the orders of His Majesty, goods coming from the Indies. He has asked for restitution, saying that these reprisals are contrary to the articles of the peace, as the king well knows that the English may go to the Indies and deal freely with their confederates. They have given him fair words and said they will see to it, but I have not yet heard that any restitution has been made to the merchants, who are of considerable standing. The secretary has been driven to say that if they do not decide to show justice to his king's subjects His Majesty will be forced to give them licence to recoup themselves at sea from the goods of the Spaniards.

Madrid, the 20th May, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

May 21.  
Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**287.** That the Inquisitors of State have power to confine Antonio Foscarini in the torture chamber provided that they have the physician's certificate declaring under oath that, by reason of his indisposition gaining ground, it be necessary to remove him from the place where he now is.

Ayes 12.

Noes 2.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

May 21.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Svizzeri.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**288.** SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador at Rome, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have been to congratulate the Most Christian ambassador on the settlement in France. He thanked me warmly. He said the Catholic king had written to his master to urge the duke of

1616.

Savoy not to grow suspicious of the forces in the state of Milan, which are only to support the archduke in his dispute with your Serenity. He told me that he had always been of opinion that they should allow the war between the duke of Savoy and the Spaniards to continue in the interests of France. France had two enemies, the kings of Spain and England, who might harm her and on whom it was necessary to keep an eye.

Rome, the 21st May, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

May 24.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**289.** PIERO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The prince remains at Blois. Meanwhile the dukes of Mayenne, Bouillon and Tremouille have come to Court. I have called upon them. Bouillon with whom I spoke more particularly told me that he did not know the cause of the opposition to your Serenity in the Grisons. He asked me whether, if the Most Illustrious Bon does not obtain what he wishes here, he would go elsewhere. It might be good for him to go to England and Holland also, in order to vex the Spaniards, who fear nothing so much as a union between the republic and those powers.

Paris, the 24th May, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

May 24.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**290.** PIERO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Lord Dingwall, an Englishman, is here and has been to see me. He said he was going to offer his services to your Serenity. He asked me to present his excuses for not arriving immediately, as he had not been able to travel post at every stage.

Paris, the 24th May, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

May 26.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Zante  
Venetian  
Archives.

**291.** ALMORO BARBARO, Proveditore of Zante, to the DOGE and SENATE.

At the moment when we were most in need of a ship for transporting the remainder of the troops enlisted, an English ship called 'Unita' arrived here. Although it was not in the interest of the principals of Silvan Marcocs, a merchant of that nation, to neglect their affairs and take our troops, yet we succeeded in persuading him to consent, as I promised that your Serenity would not only pay the usual rate for each soldier, but a reasonable additional sum would be added. The company embarked is that of Theodoro Lascari and Domenico Mondino, consisting of 129 foot including the officers; they received the necessary biscuits.

Zante, the 26th May, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

1616.

May 28.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

## 292. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

With our letters of the 9th we sent you the first office of the Marquis Manriquez with the reply given. He has since repeated his offices twice; we send a copy of them with our reply. You will communicate the whole in confidence to His Majesty. You will draw attention to the variableness of the negotiations of the governor, as he has abandoned the second part of the treaty of Vienna as to take up the first, rejected by us. He seems to desire to drag out the negotiations and must have other ends in view; thus in negotiating with the secretary Vincenti he let it be understood that he thought fresh orders might arrive from Spain to arm and raise fresh troops. He shows neither the necessary firmness to settle this affair, nor any readiness to meet our friendly disposition. There is no doubt that if we could make up our minds as to what the governor intends, it would be easy to find a remedy for the present disorders. But we cannot do this without having a due regard not only for our own, but for the public interest. You had better lay the whole matter frankly before His Majesty, so that he may be the more inclined to favour our interests by his authority and help, as he has said.

You will add that the ambassador Gussoni, destined for France, has taken the road through Germany by our orders, and amongst others he has visited the Elector Palatine out of respect for His Majesty. He has informed him about these disputes with the arch-duke and our readiness to accept an honourable settlement. His Highness received this office most graciously and undertook to write to the Emperor in the interest of peace. The same ambassador subsequently performed a like office with the marquis of Anspach, the prince of Anhalt, and the duke of Wirtemberg and received friendly replies from all with courteous offers of assistance. The duke in particular said that it behoved the princes of the Union above all others to intervene in favour of an accommodation, and he offered to help in this. That it might be advisable to send a special embassy in the name of the princes to the emperor and the arch-duke. The ambassador thanked him for his friendly attitude; we also must thank the princes for their friendship upon this occasion and assure them that we reciprocate those sentiments, informing them of the present state of the negotiations and that the acceptance of reasonable terms depends upon others than ourselves. You will inform His Majesty of everything with the usual confidence, assuring them that we know how great a part his friendship has played in obtaining this favourable disposition of the princes. If His Majesty approves of the idea of the duke of Wirtemberg, that the princes of the Union, of whom he is the head, shall intervene as mediators for an agreement, you will fall in with this, but you must not suggest it, only accept it if he moves spontaneously, as this may have numerous consequences in an increase of reputation, an increase of good relations and a stronger declaration in our favour.

You will inform the ambassador of the States in confidence of the above matters as a sign of our friendship.

Ayes 167.

Noes 1.

Neutral 5.

[Italian.]



1616.  
May 28.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**293. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Besides the commissions sent to the French ambassador to inform the king of the accommodation with the princes and thank him in the name of His Most Christian Majesty for his intervention, M. de Courtenay has received instructions to perform the same office in the name of the prince; he will endeavour to do so as soon as possible and take leave. They are very eager here to see what will be the outcome of this accommodation in France, and whether the change of ministers will bring about any alteration of policy as regards the interests of Spain.

I have certain confirmation of what my secretary advised your Excellencies from the Hague that the States suspected that the movement made by the count of Vandenberg was not simply to take possession of Soest (*Zoost*) and Lippstadt (*Sipstat*), but to enter the bishopric of Elbrun at the instance of the archbishop of Cologne; this he certainly would have done had not the Landgrave of Hesse suspected that this might take place, and accordingly stopped the way. For this reason, therefore, all these Spanish troops, without doing anything further, have returned to divide themselves among their usual garrisons at Wesel and other places near by, removing for the moment all the anxiety that their movement caused to the neighbouring princes.

The Spaniards continue to assure His Majesty and the king of France that they are ready to restore Wesel and the other places which they hold in the states of Cleves to the princes of Brandenburg and Neuburg if the States will agree to do the same with Juliers and the rest, but not by virtue of the treaty of Santen, because to do so in execution of a treaty of the kings of France and England, who have nothing to do with those states, and in which neither the emperor nor the Catholic king has intervened, would be too prejudicial to the imperial authority, upon which those states are dependent; neither the king of Spain nor the archduke ought to be bound by that treaty, in which they did not intervene, and it should suffice if they do of their free-will the same things that are there agreed upon.

The king, upon this, has allowed himself to be persuaded to write very strongly to Holland, and has given orders to his ambassador to notify the States that if the Spaniards agree to restore the places which they hold, it seems to him that they also should do the same, and if they will not consent and the pretext is taken to break the truce, His Majesty washes his hands of the matter. These proposals do not satisfy the States, who will not allow themselves to be again deceived by the Spaniards for the satisfaction of others, as the most important place which they hold in the states of Cleves is the town of Juliers, very strongly fortified by them, and they know that all these negotiations are to get it out of their hands, because as they entered that place before the Spaniards entered Wesel, they would have to evacuate first, and that done the Spaniards would find plenty of pretexts and means for keeping Wesel, by involving other matters, and thus they could keep Wesel and break their promise to the kings of France and England, just

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as under a promise to the same they first occupied it. The Dutch say freely, and count Maurice made the same remark to me when I was at the Hague, that they allowed the Spaniards to take Wesel out of complaisance in order not to offend His Majesty. They say openly that the Spaniards had never kept their promise not to make any movement. The States add that if the possession of the Margrave of Brandenburg is not assured in virtue of the treaty of Santen by the two crowns of France and England assisting against whichever of the two princes should fail to keep the treaty, and if what the Spaniards desire takes place, namely, that only in case one of the princes is assisted by the king of Spain can France and England help the other, it will certainly happen that Neuburg or the Emperor will make himself master of the whole country, since the Spaniards, to effect what they desire, know quite well how to cover themselves under the cloak of another, and pass under the name of soldiers of the Emperor when it is not convenient for them to enter under the flag of Spain; beside this they can easily supply money to the duke of Neuburg to perform in his own name what they intend to do. It is not so easy for the margrave of Brandenburg to obtain this from the princes who favour him. For these reasons the States will use every effort to induce the king not to press the requests which he makes of them, and if he continues in spite of all, it is not altogether certain what they will decide, as although, by holding their forces ready, and by trusting to them more than to any other assistance they would be more willing to enter upon open war with the Spaniards that allow themselves to be despoiled of such important places by a trick, yet they would prefer to do so with the right clearly on their side, and the approval of the two crowns of France and England. However, in any case, if the restitution is made absolutely and without regard to the treaty of Santen, with which the Spaniards desire to have nothing to do, the kings of France and England ought to continue to stand fast to these obligations made by themselves, and assist whichever of the two princes, Brandenburg or Neuburg, should fail in his part. The outbursts in Italy and suspicions elsewhere supply additional reasons for not executing anything so suddenly not to lose hold of what is certain in a time so inopportune, in order to see afterwards what is going to happen.

An ambassador extraordinary of His Catholic Majesty has arrived in Flanders with orders that the archduke Albert shall cause the oath of fealty to be taken to His Catholic Majesty upon the death of the archduke, so that when he dies, and the weakness and feebleness of his person render his speedy decease probable, his subjects may be bound to the king of Spain without taking any fresh oath. This news has caused a great stir in those countries, as they fear that after the archduke's death they will return under the hateful Government of some Spaniard, and in Brabant in particular some difficulties have arisen, as at Antwerp they have not yet made up their minds to consider it, and at Brussels they have refused to take it; however they intend to push the matter and this week the archduke in person proposes to receive the oath in the name of the Catholic king. Some of those who raise difficulties advance as a reason, that if they are to take the oath,

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the prince himself should receive it, to swear on his part to all the things which he is bound to by the laws of the State and on that account he ought himself to be present.

From a very sure source I have learned that the league of the ecclesiastical princes in Germany, negotiated by the archduke Maximilian when he stopped at Cologne on his way back from Brussels, is not only true, as your Excellencies have heard from what my Secretary discovered at the Hague, but its special objects are as follows: to compel the Protestant princes to render themselves subjects and dependents of the emperor, so that they shall furnish His Majesty with such money as he needs, which they have not hitherto been willing to do, as for instance at the last diet at Ratisbon. Secondly to better dispose the affairs of religion. Thirdly to support the election of the archduke Ferdinand as king of the Romans and to all the hereditary estates of the House of Austria.

London, the 28th May, 1616.

[Italian.]

May 28.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disposci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

294. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Schomberg is arrived, sent here by the Elector Palatine to negotiate with His Majesty. He has some special affairs with regard to the princess and his own private matters with regard to the death of his wife, who was an English lady of the same princess.<sup>o</sup> This all serves as the principal pretext for his coming, but the substance of his affair is to give a reply to His Majesty upon the negotiations of Sir [Henry] Wotton with His Highness. At his arrival he stayed a day at Greenwich with the queen and then left to find the king at Newmarket; but His Majesty having heard of this, sent him word on the road to return to London, where he can hear him more conveniently and more at length than at Greenwich. He brings instructions to acquaint His Majesty with the posture of affairs towards war, and the danger of receiving some notable damage from the Austrians and the Spaniards, unless they oppose some strong resolution. They are now awaiting the reply of Spain to what His Imperial Majesty wrote in agreement with his brothers to arrange the succession to the empire and the hereditary States in favour of the archduke Ferdinand. If the Spaniards support this with the forces which they are setting on foot everywhere, and by the union of the Ecclesiastics, they expect to induce all the other princes to do what they desire. That the archduke Ferdinand is certainly not going to disarm or come to any settlement with your Serenity, and this is the reason why they have not arrived at any settlement in the negotiations with the ambassador Giustinian at Prague in order that they may have a pretext to levy an army in Germany and to keep your Serenity in a state of constant expense and anxiety; so that they may afterwards turn this army against Germany and against the princes of the Union. That it is always in

<sup>o</sup> Ann Dudley married Schomberg in April, 1615, and died in December in the same year.

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*their power to make peace with your Serenity while they mean to wear you out by war, and when they have crushed the others they can turn with greater force against you ; that His Majesty must take a decision, the interests of all the princes united and leagued with him being involved ; the Spaniards have hitherto abused his goodness, and the princes of Germany are most anxious to know what he proposes to do with regard to them, what with regard to your Serenity and the duke of Savoy, and what he would have them do, as they seem about to pass from a state of mere suspicion to actual evils and they can no longer build upon hope alone, but must have deeds which assure them against imminent perils. When His Majesty has replied, the princes of the Union will immediately meet and make provision for their safety and for the benefit of your Serenity and of the duke of Savoy in conformity with the intentions of His Majesty, but even if they do not know what he is going to do, they will be compelled to arrange as best they can. However, every effort will be made to induce His Majesty to make some movement.*

*The count also has instructions to perform offices with His Majesty so that he may not ask the States to restore Juliers, reminding him that the rain hopes in the past founded upon the promises of the Spaniards were the cause of the loss of Wesel and overthrew all good results in the states of Cleves.*

*He will also approach the king, and he hopes successfully, to restrain him from his inclination to marry the prince in Spain, which the ambassador resident here and very many of the court who belong to that party, consider as very near being concluded. They say that the Catholic king will give His Majesty a million pounds (lire), equivalent to four millions of gold, partly as dower and partly as a loan, 200,000 ducats a year as provision for the daughter, grant free navigation in the East Indies to the English, and innumerable benefits to the country. From a sure source I know that Lord Roos, who is ambassador designate for Spain to offer congratulations upon the marriage of the prince there, has hopes of acquiring great reputation by concluding this business.*

*Yesterday evening a gentleman arrived here sent by His Majesty's agent in Turin with information upon the state of affairs in Italy and of the needs of His Highness and asking that help may be no longer delayed. The ambassador of His Highness has also received orders to make strong representations to His Majesty to afford some substantial assistance to the duke. He also hears that especially since the arrangement of affairs in France, large numbers of French soldiers have been hastening to the duke, but they demand payment so soon as they arrive in Piedmont. His Highness has further sent him power to conclude the league with His Majesty, the States and the princes of the Union, so that the duke's decision may appear, and some instructions will come upon the proceedings to be taken in the negotiations. His Highness wishes first to hear something about the negotiations of Sir [Henry] Wotton at Heidelberg upon their affairs and what was said there in the name of His Majesty.*

London, the 20th May, 1616.

[Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.]

1616.  
May 28.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**295. GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

I have seen Schomberg and have given him detailed information about all that has taken place in the dispute between your Serenity and the archduke Ferdinand, both in the field and in negotiation, particularly since the departure of the ambassador Gussoni from the court of the Elector. He told me that His Highness had been most glad to see Gussoni, and had welcomed the representations made by him, and hoped that even if he had nothing to do but simply give information he had remained perfectly satisfied. He spoke to me very fully about the goodwill of His Highness and of the whole Union towards your Serenity, of how anxious they all are for the common liberty and how suspicious they are of the ambitions of the Spaniards to subject all. They think the time opportune, especially now that France is in a state of disorder. *That the king here, who might do much will do nothing; he will speak to him with energy and frankness because things are in such a condition that it is necessary to take some resolution; that he knows the King's distaste for trouble and how easily he allows himself to be deceived by the words of the Spaniards, and that many of the court here have interests involved, but in spite of all he will not omit to do everything possible to make His Majesty feel that his reputation, the safety of the princes, his allies, and his chief interests are at stake.*

To-morrow or the day after he will have audience of His Majesty and I will find out what takes place. I believe that His Majesty has been induced to come as far as Greenwich to hear him in order to obtain further information about the affairs of Italy, of what is being done and what they propose to do *with respect to your Serenity and the duke of Savoy. I also will not fail to use every effort to induce His Majesty to take some good resolution.* I will inform him, as your Excellencies command me, of what took place at Lucinis, how the Austrians are always more determined upon war, and how they have gone so far as to sell the prisoners taken in Istria to the Turks, a thing which is heard here with great abhorrence.

The other letters of your Serenity of the 5th inst. about the banished has also reached me. So far as I can find out at present there is not a single exile in this kingdom from the republic, but I hope that the publication of the decree of the Senate may reveal some. I have, at any rate, arranged that the news shall go to Flanders where many have withdrawn, who by returning home can render the highest service to your Serenity. I will not fail to incite those whom I know to be in these parts, to go and serve your Serenity. Here, in Holland, and in every place well affected towards your Excellencies, there will certainly be no hindrance; if there be any in Flanders, where the greatest obstacles may reasonably be expected, I will employ every caution and diligence in the service of your Serenity so that not only the exiles, but all men fit for war, may be urged to go and serve your Serenity.

Since the departure of Lord Dingwall (*d'Inquel*), many others have been induced to offer their service to your Serenity. Lord Willoughby (*l'ilibi*) has come to offer himself, who last year led

1616.

4,000 men to the king of Denmark. Sir Walter Raleigh (*Sir Vate Ralo*), who is destined to go to the West Indies to discover the country of Guiana, has let me know that if he could obtain permission from his king he would willingly go to serve your Serenity. The earl of Essex, although he does not speak so freely, would be very glad to go; and all this greatly adds to the reputation of your Serenity and I do not fail to respond to their good-will in a suitable manner, especially as they are English lords, expressing the greatest esteem for their nation, but the affection and good-will of the king are turned in a most remarkable manner towards Lord Dingwall.

I have received as a final decision about the gunpowder that it is not possible to find any quantity in Amsterdam, as all that goes there and all that is found in other places, such as Liège and elsewhere, is entirely appropriated and bought for those who are on the side of your Serenity, so that to buy in competition with them would prejudice both and would be rather disadvantageous than serviceable to your Serenity. Here, some merchants, at my instance, have bought all that they could obtain, and they continue to do so, but up to the present they have not been able to purchase more than about twenty thousand.

London, the 28th May, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

May 28.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Busta 155.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**296.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the INQUISITORS of STATE.

Sir William Smith came to see me on Sunday, the 22nd inst. Before I had said anything he began to speak of Giulio Muscorno. Before returning to Venice he wished to take leave of the king, the queen and prince with whom he was very welcome chiefly owing to his abilities in music in which he excelled all in this kingdom, he thought in the world. Their Majesties, at his departure, gave him letters of recommendation to the republic. He understood these had done him more harm than good, though he could not believe it. Muscorno had been threatened by Lumsden (*Lombsden*), a servant of Foscarni. He went on to speak of the money lent by him to Muscorno. I told him that everything would be done to procure satisfaction for him. That the departure of Carleton might be the reason why he had not already been paid, but at all events he should receive justice.

[*Italian.*]

May 30.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Sivola,  
Venetian  
Archives.

**297.** ANTONIO DONADO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Sir [Henry] Wotton, English ambassador destined to reside with your Serenity, arrived here four days ago. On the following day he had a long audience of His Highness, and immediately afterwards came on to honour the house of the republic, accompanied by the same suite which had been with him to the duke. He dealt with matters of considerable importance as I shall relate

1616.

in the following letters. He leaves by way of the Po, intending to take up his charge in six days.

M. de Bethune, the French ambassador, also arrived here yesterday evening.

Turin, the 30th May, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

May 30.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**298.** ANTONIO DONADO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The ambassador of the king of Great Britain<sup>\*</sup> proposed to the duke what he will also propose to your Serenity, namely, a league with His Majesty, the States and the united princes of Germany, and possibly of the Swiss Cantons, as they are sure of the heretics and expect to have the Catholic ones also. His Highness replied that he was anxious for something of the kind as it would constitute a counterpoise to the Spanish power and would help towards a long and secure peace. He told the ambassador that he would await the decision of the republic and would govern his action by that, though he was inclined to join even if the republic did not.

The duke desired that this proposal should be repeated to him in my presence. He said a great deal about it, declaring that now was the time to consider it, if ever, owing to the ill behaviour of the French and the ambitions of the Spaniards, and he charged me to inform your Serenity of his strong leaning towards this. The ambassador was at great pains to persuade him that his king was not of the nature with which he is credited, namely, devoted to ease, to studies and pleasures, but that being in possession of so great a crown, in peace, he wished to preserve it, not only for himself but for his friends; but that if the Spaniards ever began to move to effect their vast ambitions, he would never stand and look on, but would draw the sword, and prove that he was not a superfluous prince, and that he wished to maintain a just balance in the world.

The ambassador spoke of the ease and quickness with which help could be supplied by English ships, of the slight cost of hiring them, and their skill.

He gave full information of the state and forces of the count Palatine and the other princes, his allies. He spoke of the power of the States, their skill in arms, the prudence of their counsels, the great counterpoise which is always offered to the Spaniards from that quarter. He praised the affection existing between the republic and His Highness, saying that it afforded the utmost pleasure to his king. He advised a union with Mantua and spoke against Verua as a minister who has the reputation of opposing everything good. He offered good advice and opportune persuasion to the duke, upon whom he made a good impression.

With me he dealt in terms of the highest honour, expressing his high esteem for your Serenity, and showing the most friendly confidence.

<sup>\*</sup> Wotton arrived at Turin on the 24th May and left on the 31st. In his dispatch of the latter date Wake gives an account of this public audience, which took place on the 27th. *State Papers. Foreign. Savoy.* Wake to Winwood, 21 May, 1616 o.s.

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M. de Bethune has had audience and expressed the readiness of his sovereign to assist the duke in having the treaty of Asti carried out. He begged His Highness to be content that a small Spanish army should remain on foot until the affairs of the archduke Ferdinand were settled. The duke told me about all this and seemed greatly perturbed at such proposals. I have visited this ambassador and pointed out to him the wrong which is done to the republic by protecting such rascally thieves, and with the help of the English ambassador, who is most anxious to secure this disarmament, we shall perhaps obtain satisfactory results.

Turin, the 30th May, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

May 31.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Zante.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**299.** ALMORO BARBARO, Proveditore of Zante, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Notification of the sending of the company of Lascari and Mondino by the English ship "Unita."

Zante, the last day of May, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

June 3.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**300.** GREGORIO BARBARIGO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The two letters of your Serenity of the 13th of last month, with the copies of the exposition of the marquis Manriquez and the reply of the Senate reached me yesterday, when I was in bed in a somewhat serious condition. The evening that I sent off my last dispatch I went to bed in severe pain, and on the following morning I lay immoveable and was so ill that I have not been able to rise up to the present moment. My weak constitution has been still further enfeebled by the continued sufferings of these three years, and the extremes of this climate are most injurious to me. However, as I am somewhat better, I hope in a few days to go to the king to execute the commands of your Excellencies. I console myself by the reflection that the time which must necessarily intervene will not greatly prejudice the affairs of your Serenity, as I know that the ambassador of Savoy had orders from the duke, his master, to speak to His Majesty upon current affairs, and has asked for an audience and spoken about it to the secretary Winwood, who has dissuaded him from persisting in asking for it, showing him *how useless it is since the king has made up his mind not to come to any decision at present upon the affairs of Italy until he receives letters from Sir [Henry] Wotton, after he has arrived in this Province, with a resumé of the true state of affairs, and that he may see the results of the mission of M. de Bethune, the French ambassador, because if the Spaniards will not come to terms he is resolved not to waste any more time in words, but to have recourse to deeds, and before such time it is useless to think of drawing His Majesty into greater affairs.* They think it strange here, and Winwood has spoken about it to the ambassador of Savoy with some dissatisfaction, that Wotton travels so slowly and does not hurry on more quickly, since he knows how important it is.



1616.

However, I will ask for an audience, so soon as I am able, *and if I am unable in this state of affairs, to obtain a stronger declaration from the king, I shall at least inform him of the latest news which I think will most serve the cause of your Serenity and of the duke of Saroy.* In particular I shall endeavour, without delay, to obtain from him some commissions for lord Hay, who is going as extraordinary ambassador to France, such as were sent many days ago to the ordinary ambassador, to support all the representations made by the ambassador Bon to their Most Christian Majesties.

This mission of lord Hay, which was to have set out soon, has been postponed some days, owing to the sumptuous and superb train which he takes with him and to some money difficulties, as he spent long since the 82,000 crowns which he had from the king at the beginning, to get himself ready. However, it is thought that he will leave in a few days.

With M. Caron, ambassador of the States I will perform the office of thanks, after I have seen His Majesty, for the friendship shown by his masters, especially with regard *to the particulars of the proposals*, as I am directed, although I performed a similar office of thanks after the return of my secretary here I will now do it more fully.

The news from Flanders and the neighbouring countries shows signs continually of new matters of great moment. It is now understood that the Emperor made a secret declaration that the states of the inheritance of Cleves ought to be placed in a third hand until judgment has been delivered as to whom they ought to belong, and that the marquis Spinola should be the person. The states of Holland become continually more certain that war must ensue, and though they themselves are not inclined to be the first to declare it, yet they feel that it is inevitable, and while they maintain their usual forces on foot, they keep bringing everything into order so that they may lose no time, whatever may happen.

The 600,000 crowns are ready to be paid to the king here in the name of the United Provinces, as the first instalment, in according to the agreement, and on Monday viscount Lisle will leave England, who was governor of Flushing, to make restitution of those places which were pawned to the Crown. As I have written at other times, this will cause great displeasure to all the English, who will thus lose the important advantage of holding towns, fortresses and ports on the mainland. This viscount Lisle, in addition to a good sum of money and other favours granted to him by the king for the loss of that governorship, will receive the day after to-morrow, the order of the garter, to take the place vacant rendered by the death of the earl of Salisbury.

Besides, what I wrote last week about the attempt to make the provinces under the archduke Albert take the oath to the king of Spain, they say this week that seeing the difficulty raised by some of the people in saying that His Catholic Majesty ought to come in person to receive it, the archduke has proposed that the prince of Spain, His Majesty's eldest son, shall come to receive it for his father, and thus matters have been appeased for the moment and nothing more has been done. Your Serenity shall receive full information of what takes place subsequently.

1616.

The count of Schomberg, who came here for the elector Palatine, has stayed on at Greenwich since Sunday with their Majesties, and has had various conversations with the king, from which I do not think they have yet arrived at a final decision. I hope, before he has left, to hear something, as I imagine that His Majesty has gone into some circumstances at length with him, especially upon the affairs of Italy, as the count had instructions to make certain enquiries about them.

To-day, at last, after various postponements, the trial of the Earl and Countess of Somerset has begun. The Countess was summoned to public trial this morning before a countless multitude of people. As she was unwilling to speak point by point upon the matters with which she is charged, she said that all that she had related at other times was true, confessed herself guilty and submitted herself to justice. She was condemned to be hanged, and the execution is fixed for Monday. No greater favour is expected from the king that what is customarily granted to magnates, namely to be beheaded instead.\* The Earl will be tried to-morrow, and after him various knights and gentlemen accomplices in the act.

I hope that my letters of the 6th May advising your Excellencies that I had executed the commissions contained in the letters of the 26th and 28th March will have dispelled the doubt expressed in your letters received yesterday. In those of the 20th I indeed wrote an armistice, as I had no time to properly see the letters, which reached me at the very last moment of sealing the dispatches, as I did not wish the courier to lose the favourable wind and tide, so that he was obliged to depart; but in a subsequent letter I wrote to say that I had informed the king of the orders given to the Proveditore General to withdraw the troops from Gradisca, and that was the news generally understood here by everybody.

I have informed my secretary Giovanni Battista Lionello of the satisfaction of your Excellencies with his services. He has been much encouraged by this appreciation, and it has consoled him in his trouble over the recent death of his mother, the long illness of his father and the inroads on his small fortune caused by his prolonged absence.

London, the 3rd June, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

June 6.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**301.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

After the ambassador Gregorio Barbarigo had written his last despatch of the 3rd June, his sickness continued until the night of the 4th to 5th, when a fever suddenly declared itself, so violent that he passed the whole of the following day in perpetual delirium, and in spite of his years and strength and the care of the king's own

\* The general opinion is that she shall not die, and many good words were given to put her in hope of the king's mercy. Chamberlain to Carleton, May 25, 1616 o.s. Birch, *Court and Times of James I.*, i, pp. 407, 408.

1616.

chief physician, he rendered his soul to God this morning about 8 o'clock. The previous evening he was conscious for a quarter of an hour, when he confessed, and an hour before the end he was able to recite from memory a great part of the Office of the Virgin, which he used to recite daily, and after receiving the last Sacrament, he passed away very quietly. During his few lucid intervals he expressed with modesty his sense of how unfortunate this event was, as he was leaving his affairs in great confusion, and his sons in England, but he consoled himself by the reflection that as he died in the public service your Excellencies would extend your favour towards him. It is undoubtedly true that his sufferings during these last two years have brought about his death, his condition being aggravated by an excessive solicitude for the affairs of your Serenity, which ruined his health and corrupted his blood, so that he died in a few hours.

Of the three sons whom he leaves, Sig. Giovanni Francesco is the eldest and is a little over sixteen, but far beyond his years in ability, character and prudence. Undaunted by this tragedy he has resolved to follow in his father's footsteps, and not to think of himself in obeying your Excellencies. Sig. Antonio is a year younger, of angelic nature, similar to his father and inspired by the same ideals as his brother. The third is Sig. Angelo, who left Venice at the age of seven and has accompanied his father and brothers in all their strange travels, so that at his present age of ten he fills those who see him with amazement, his conversation being that of a wise man. All these three are so overwhelmed at the loss which they have sustained that they have thought but little at present of what they must do to return home, but their journey will be managed so that they may arrive safely with the least possible inconvenience.

I propose to-day to go to Greenwich, in order to inform His Majesty, the queen and the prince, who are there, if my feelings will allow me to do so, and a slight indisposition, caused I believe by my extreme sorrow and because I have remained by the bedside of his Excellency day and night, as he seemed pleased to be served by me. I have served him for seven years and he has always taken my imperfections in good part and has never expressed dissatisfaction either in words or any other manner. So I can do nothing but weep at his loss.

Owing to my enfeebled health, due to past labours and the present trouble, I needed to return soon to the feet of your Serenity, but at present I dare not think of doing so without the express commands of your Excellencies, and I will await your permission as a great favour.

London, the 6th June, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

June 6.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**302.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The negotiations carried on by M. de Bethune with the Duke of Savoy may be reduced to two points, the first to assure His Highness that the treaty of Asti shall be fully carried out upon

1616.

all points but the disarming; and a promise of the crown of France that the Spaniards should not harm the duke. His Highness has waxed very wroth, moved by his own impetuous spirit and his determination that the Spaniards shall completely disarm. He has suggested that the ambassador shall lay his proposals before the council and the ministers of the princes who took part in the treaty, namely England and Venice. The ambassador refused, and said that he wished to negotiate as between prince and prince and not with ministers.

Sir [Henry] Wotton proposes that the meeting shall take place in the house of the republic, but France refuses this also. The duke insists that the whole point of the treaty consists in disarmament, which he is determined to obtain, and he expresses astonishment at the attitude of France. M. de Bethune proposed to confer with the Marshal Lesdiguières; the duke accepted this, and the marshal is expected in a week. The duke has asked me and the ambassador of England to be present at the meeting. I hope your Serenity will send me word what course I must pursue.

Turin, the 6th June, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

June 6.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**303. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Before Sir [Henry] Wotton, the English ambassador, left here on his way to take up his charge, he did his utmost to persuade M. de Bethune to represent to France the true state of affairs here, and the obligation of his masters to make the Spaniards lay down their arms. I have seen the French ambassador several times since, but have never been able to get anything from him beyond formal phrases and a determination to leave the Spanish army on foot. It is therefore clear that his mission has been arranged by the Spaniards to serve their interests.

Turin, the 6th June, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

June 7.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**304. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Yesterday as His Majesty remained the whole day at the chase, I could not perform the office which I wished, upon the death of the ambassador. This morning I travelled to Greenwich and obtained admittance to His Majesty, who graciously consented to receive me before he went to the Council. After I had kissed hands with due reverence, I informed him of this sad event, of the sickness and death, adding that your Excellencies would regret that this court must remain for a long while without an ambassador from them, especially at the present time, but that I was sure that as soon as the news reached Venice, whatever was possible would be done to remedy this, and you would proceed to elect a person worthy of this charge, who would be instructed to hasten with all speed to take up his

1616.

task. The king heard me with an expression of great sorrow, possibly more than is generally shown in such circumstances. He said that he heard of this misfortune with great grief, both as ambassador of the republic and on his own account, as he had become very fond of him and he was worthy of better fortune. He did not know what he could do, but offered to do his utmost for the sons and would send a gentleman to their house to offer his condolences and express his friendship.

I thanked him suitably, and said that the ambassador a few hours before his death received letters from your Serenity to inform His Majesty of what was taking place in Italy and of the negotiations. I felt sure that it was better that His Majesty should receive this information even by my feeble means than leave it unimparted until the arrival of the new ambassador, and if His Majesty pleased I would inform him then or at any time that proved convenient. The king took the Secretary Winwood, who was there, by the arm, and told me to confer with him and tell him what I had to say, as he was then going to the Council, and forthwith he left the room. The secretary then gave me between seven and eight on the following morning, when he would expect me, also at Greenwich. I promised to come, and will do so, please God, if my slight indisposition does not become worse. I beg your Serenity to excuse the delay in sending off the courier until to-morrow evening, as in addition to this bad news, for which he is chiefly sent, he may also bring your Serenity some light upon the king's intentions. If I have meddled in these grave affairs without the orders of your Excellencies the fault arises from my belief that this line of action is the best.

I should have liked to perform the same office with the queen, but could not do so this morning, and owing to her occupations I hardly hope to have audience, and I know that she has already instructed one of her gentlemen to come and offer her condolences. He has been, and after dinner there also came a knight from the king, both expressing the feelings of Their Majesties, and making offers so full of their favour that they should afford some consolation.

It has not been fitting to do more with the prince, because he was present when I saw His Majesty, and almost all the Lords of the Council were there, who expressed their grief not only in words but with tears. It is hardly credible how general is the grief at Court, the gentle nature and loveable qualities of the ambassador having endeared him to all, and the magnates in particular declare that the republic has suffered a severe loss, especially just now, as he was beloved by the king with more than ordinary affection, and this was of great moment in the important negotiations on foot.

The sons propose to go and kiss the hands of Their Majesties and His Highness after some days, to thank them for so many favours, and take leave to return to Italy, as they propose to do as soon as possible by way of France. They will send the embalmed body of their father by sea. When the body was opened the organs were generally sound, but the liver was badly affected and the lungs somewhat full of matter. In addition to the loss of their father the poor boys will have to spend a considerable sum of money, and

1616.

they have no other refuge in their wretchedness than the benevolence of your Excellencies.

London, the 7th June, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

June 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

305. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

This morning, in conformity with the intimation given me by the Secretary Winwood, I went to see him at Greenwich, and informed him of all that is contained in the letters of your Excellencies of the 5th and 13th May to the Ambassador Barbarigo. I began by telling him that we had not met with the response we expected from the men of Gradisca, and that hostilities and preparations for war of the archduke kept on increasing. I told him of the passage of General Stomestorf over the Lisonzo, of his arrival at Lucinis and favourable reception by the General in Terra Firma. I then told him of the return of the Marquis Manriquez and of his unreasonable proposals, of the decision of your Excellencies to write to Milan and await a reply. I went on to speak of your decision to allow 2,000 French infantry for some time to the duke of Savoy to use for his needs, providing him with the money for enlisting and keeping them, and that you were disposed to do more if need arose. I told him that your Serenity had been led to take this resolution by the union of hearts and interests which exists with that prince, as you have done at other times with Mantua and others who were joined to you in good will without any other obligation of any kind. I used all the arguments contained in the letter so that this office might produce the effect with His Majesty and his ministers that is contemplated by the prudence of your Serenity. I added that as His Majesty had shown himself favourable in the past to the protection of the duke of Savoy, your Excellencies were sure that he would continue so in the future, especially in negotiating for the execution of the treaty of Asti, and that the republic, while recognising its indebtedness to His Majesty, was ready to respond most fully, especially in the present circumstances, which demand prompt action.

The secretary answered my discourse taking the various points in order: he said that the truce for two months between your Serenity and the archduke had not produced any good results. At this I interrupted him, saying that your Serenity had never made any truce, but that this report was a trick of our adversaries, to spread about the world to serve their interest, by calling the raising of the siege of Gradisca a truce for two months. He said that this had been written to the king from Venice. I replied that it was entirely untrue and that men so crafty as our enemies were able to make false things believed. Being thus undeceived, the secretary continued that this hardness of the archduke Ferdinand showed what backing he was obtaining from the house of Austria, that the king had previously heard of proposals made in the Cabinet in the name of the governor of Milan, which were too unequal. He passed lightly over these particulars and said

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nothing about the decision of your Serenity upon the 2,000 French granted to Savoy. Enlarging upon the principal point he said that the king had written to Spain and France and had spoken to the Spanish ambassador resident here, to ask that the treaty of Asti might be carried out, and Italy relieved of its fears and everything pacified. From the Catholic king he received the reply that His Majesty was resolved to do this, but they began to see that the words were only words, and that Don Pedro of Toledo is an arrogant, restless man who wishes to do everything otherwise, will not carry out the treaty, asks His Highness impossible things, increases the forces in the state of Milan and wishes to turn the world upside down. On this account His Majesty is much annoyed, and if he sees that matters are to proceed thus, he will have himself recognised as the great and powerful monarch that he is. But really His Majesty desires general peace; his natural inclination has always led him to arrange differences between the European powers; he had made the truce between the Catholic king and the Dutch; the unhappy agreement, so he termed it, in the county of Cleves, the accommodation in France, and last year, peace in Italy. He would like to see these present affairs also terminated quietly, and therefore wishes to see a little what is at the back of the minds of the Spaniards and what they will decide upon the mission of Bethune, the French ambassador to Italy. If this does not succeed they will come to some proper resolution here.

With regard to the affairs of your Serenity he said that the king's friendly disposition towards the republic was what it always had been, and it had appeared in his acts, and if your Serenity prefers any particular request you may be sure that you will be satisfied. I had reserved the last part of my office for such an opportunity, and said that your Excellencies felt most certain of His Majesty's goodwill towards you, and it caused you the most lively satisfaction. You would be glad *of the publication of a declaration in your favour, as it had happened at other times that when the king had declared the republic to be in the right, and that he was ready to assist it, this had proved most useful and had facilitated a lawful accommodation; that this was the most particular and the most modest request that your Excellencies had ever made, and they might be backed by representations made in Spain and elsewhere, with such demonstrations as befit his great authority.*

The Secretary replied that he understood everything, and would inform his master, especially of this last particular when he returned from the chase, and he would afterwards tell me the reply. I further begged him to add instructions to Lord Hay, who is going to France, to assist the offices of the Ambassador Bon. He promised faithfully to do so, and with that we parted, after I had promised not to send the courier before to-morrow morning, as he said that His Majesty desired to write something to his ministers in Italy and also to your Serenity in order to express his grief at the death of the Ambassador Barbarigo.

London, the 8th June, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

1616.  
June 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**306. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

In conformity with what the secretary Winwood told me this morning with regard to His Majesty's disposition towards the affairs of Italy, the ambassador of Savoy told me that he also had received a similar reply, not only from the ministers, but from the king's own lips, with the promise that if the going of Bethune and Wotton to Milan does not suffice, His Majesty is resolved to *declare war upon Spain*. The Count of Schomberg, marshal of the Palatine, who is to leave for Germany to-morrow, told me that he had discussed the affairs of Italy a good deal with the king. He had suggested to His Majesty a generous resolution in order to bridle the vast ambitions of the Austrians, such as to attack them on several sides, and thus restrain their insolence by fear, but he had not found His Majesty so well disposed to this as he could have desired.

The French ambassador at this court promises himself a good deal from the mission of Bethune to Italy, saying that the authority of his king will suffice to appease all disturbances, but many who know that Bethune was chosen for this task by the queen-mother are very doubtful about the results which may follow, as although the queen, since the marriage, owing to some offence she has received, seems to have changed her mind, yet the results are not such as yet to dissipate the belief that it is all artifice. The same French ambassador says that he does not believe that the Spanish troops are going to enter Montferrat, as this will be stopped by the mission of a gentleman from the court of France to Mantua, for the purpose.

Of the marriage with Spain the whole of this kingdom speaks openly as of a thing accomplished, but the queen recently told the ambassador of Savoy that it has certainly not been arranged and that nothing is certain. Winwood said the same thing, and the king himself told the ambassador that before taking such a step he would inform his friends.

On Saturday the earl of Somerset was brought to trial. They spent eleven hours simply upon the question of the death of the knight who was imprisoned.\* He defended himself with considerable ability, but, in spite of all, his twenty-four peers found him guilty, and sentence was forthwith pronounced, depriving him of all his titles, earldoms and baronies, the Order of the Garter, of all the goods given him by the king, and to be hanged by the neck. It is said that he will receive no pardon from His Majesty, and that there were many important things, such as betrayals and high treason, but that in order not to publish secret things to the people at a time when negotiations are proceeding for the marriage with Spain, they preferred to condemn him on this head alone. Neither he nor his wife has yet been executed, because they are awaiting the trial of the other accomplices.

The Dutch States have replied to the request made to them by the king to give up what they have in the country of Cleves and remove the names of the two kings from the treaty of Santen, that

\* Sir Thomas Overbury.



1616.

they cannot do so because it would prove too prejudicial to them, but they wish both their Majesties to remain bound, as they are, to the execution of that treaty. The king is much displeased at this, and it is feared that his dissatisfaction may increase, to the detriment of the general good. In the Low Countries and in Cleves things are certainly quiet, but there are always the gravest suspicions, and in letters which I receive from the Hague I have these formal words: A rumour is now current that the Spaniards are making great preparations to take possession of other neutral places, and for this purpose Neuburg is demanding by letters the restitution of the county, city and town of Mörs, as appurtenant to the jurisdiction of Cleves and as an imperial fief. I think that he will be answered by the mouth of guns.

The deputies of the Hanse towns have arrived at the Hague, namely from Lubeck, Hamburg, Magdeburg, Bremen, Brunswick, Rostock, Stralsund and Griefswald, and those of Danzig and many other places are expected to conclude the general league with the States.

In letters from Brussels I am informed that orders have been issued to raise 4,000 Walloons and 400 Burgundian horse for Italy, and they say that Don Philip, son of the Marquis Spinola, is to lead them, but nothing has happened as yet, and if they begin, your Excellencies will be immediately advised.

I am also informed of a Milanese captain of great experience who wishes to come and serve your Serenity with a dozen good soldiers, all known by Sig. Pompeo Giustiniani. I am writing to Flanders to-day to find out his name, quality and claims, and also of other engineers and men of proved service, for which I shall need some indication of the wishes of your Excellencies, if you will let me know what type of men you require and how you wish them to be taken to your service, as if I have to rely upon my own judgment as to what it is your Serenity desires, I shall find the responsibility too great.

I have received your Serenity's letters of the 5th May, sent by way of Cologne to the Hague so that their contents might be communicated to the States General. I will inform their ambassador as soon as possible, as I cannot do this in a better manner. Since our sad loss I have not succeeded in meeting him, I have been overwhelmed with work during these last few days and he lives some miles away from us.

London, the 8th June, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

June 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra  
Venetian  
Archives.

**307.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

For the extraordinary expedition of the present dispatch I have taken 200 ducats from Signori Giovanni Calandrini and Filippo Burlamacchi, which I have given to the courier, leaving your Excellencies to make the payment to Signori Giacomo and Pier Antonio Guadagni.

London, the 8th June, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

1616.

June 10.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**308. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.**

Nothing fresh has happened in Friuli. Our troops have abundance of provisions at reasonable prices. The Captain of Raspo writes that some companies of the archduke accompanied by numbers of Morlachs, penetrated into that country to burn a town. They were repulsed, and on the way back they fell in with the captain, who drove them off with loss. The General Barbarigo sends word that those of Montona, with some paid troops, penetrated to Cosliaco and Pedena, between which places they burned seven mills. The Proveditor and General, hearing that the people of Servola, near Trieste, offered many conveniences to the enemy to damage our subjects of Muggia, set out to burn out that nest.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Savoy, Milan, Naples, Florence, Zurich.

Ayes 111.

Noes 4.

Neutrals 2.

[Italian.]

June 11.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Constant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**309. ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*The fleet will not consist of more than thirty six galleys, in a very bad state. It is hardly credible, but the Pasha sent to beg me to send him four or five barrels of powder. I excused myself politely, but I hear that they obtained two or three barrels from England and as many from Flanders. If fortune does not send the Pasha a ship with powder from Cairo, the fleet will have to leave with a third less of powder than it requires.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 11th June, 1616.

[Italian ; deciphered.]

June 13.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**310. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Lord Dingwall, a Scotchman, arrived here yesterday from England, by post, recommended to me by the Ambassador Barbarigo. He left in the same haste, to go and offer troops to your Serenity. He left two packets of letters with me, as he did not wish to have them with him on his passage through the state of Milan. I directed them to the Rectors of Bergamo. I showed the baron such respect and honour as I thought befitting to his friendship to the republic and the service of your Serenity.

Turin, the 13th June, 1616.

[Italian.]

1616.  
June 16.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**311. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The day before yesterday in the morning, I went to see the Secretary Winwood at Greenwich to learn what reply His Majesty had given upon my discourse of the preceding week. The Secretary informed me that he had communicated the whole to the king, who also had knowledge of the same advices by letters from Venice and from the relation of the ambassador of Savoy. With regard to the affairs of the duke he could do no more than await the results of the mission of M. de Bethune and he hoped they would succeed in settling all the new disputes between His Highness and the governor of Milan. To this I replied that we had the same hopes in Italy from the interposition of his Most Christian Majesty, but that it was not good, through too much confidence in a settlement, that the duke and his friends should neglect to make due provision for the contrary event, as the count of Scarnafes, ambassador of His Highness resident here, was very doubtful, on reasonable grounds, of what Bethune might effect. Winwood replied that the count of Scarnafes had already said something to him about this, but that all ambassadors are suspicious and he knew Bethune for an honourable man from whom good results might be expected, but in any case the upshot would be seen in a few days.

With regard to the affairs of your Serenity he told me in the king's name that His Majesty will always entertain the same friendly regard for the republic and the same friendship as he has shown in the past and as I had asked for nothing more than a declaration of his good-will to be published to the world, he did not know how he could better gratify your Excellencies than by what he had already done at the instance of the late ambassador, in sending instructions to his ambassadors at all the Courts to make representations in favour of the republic. Similarly, in conformity with my request, he had charged Lord Hay, who is going to France, to do the same, and he did not know what more he could do, as it was not convenient for various reasons to make a declaration in writing; that if your Serenity is sure that in these disputes with the archduke the interposition of His Majesty may prove of assistance, he offers to use every endeavour and all his authority to secure a good issue, if he is asked. He added that the king did not enter into further particulars at the moment, as your Excellencies had asked nothing particular of him, and whatever he might do in addition would arise from his own good-will towards the republic, but not from the obligation of any treaty, as when by means of his Ambassador Carleton he proposed to your Serenity a strong bond of understanding, the Senate answered that a union of hearts was sufficient and it was not necessary to think of anything else; and when finally Winwood spoke by the king's order to the Ambassador Barbarigo about it in the presence of the ambassador of Savoy he got nothing more than the statement that a good understanding between princes is sufficient. But in spite of all this, His Majesty has never wavered in his habitual friendship for the republic, and whenever he can render assistance he will do so promptly.

I begged him to thank the king in the name of your Excellencies, not only for the continuance of his ordinary good-will, but for the

1616.

results of that feeling, which manifested themselves every day, because actually the commissions which he had given to his ambassadors at the various Courts, and recently to Lord Hay, would serve as a great testimony of His Majesty's friendship and good-will, and these offices would produce a good impression, especially at the Courts of France and Spain. But in addition to this, His Majesty had been endowed by God with such power and authority that means would not be wanting to render even more manifest to the world his good-will towards your Excellencies, which you have recognised upon other occasions, and which will produce the best results at this time.

With regard to what he said about a closer understanding, I told him, as on my own responsibility, that this affair with the archduke must be dealt with, with all speed, and we cannot await the benefits and assistance of any treaty upon such matters. Treaties which are of such importance, like those which are arranged without limit of time, cannot be arranged so soon, as a great deal of time would be lost in sending and receiving replies at so great a distance, so that it is necessary to work in another direction. Your Excellencies were obliged to make immediate provision and to expect from your true friends the same offices which you are accustomed to use towards them in their need. Your Serenity has no league with any prince, except a feeling of friendship and goodwill, but when such friends are in need you have afforded help, as appears by many examples, the latest being the duke of Mantua, supported by the republic at a heavy expense, and the duke of Savoy, who has not been abandoned, despite this war with the House of Austria. In like manner the republic will always be ready to serve the king and his royal house owing to its great obligations contracted in the past, and from what it hopes in the present and future.

The Secretary answered this in the form given above, speaking of the offers of His Majesty, but without binding himself to any particulars, except about interrening for an accommodation.

The ambassador of Savoy is waiting to hear as soon as possible from the courier of Italy, what M. de Bethune has done, and in the event of further proceedings in Milan, he does not know what to think about the determination of the king, as he and his ministers are deeply committed to do great things if the Spaniards do not behave straightforwardly, but on the other hand he knows how easily they change their minds here when any difficulties present themselves in the way of effecting promises, as he has had experience of this in his past negotiations for his master (*non sa che giudizio formare delle risoluzioni che fara il Re, poich' egli et li suoi ministri si sono strettamente impegnati a far gran cosa in caso che Spagnoli non descendono a termine di honestà: ma dal altro canto conosce quanto sia facile giù il variar di proposito quante difficoltà si interpongano nella effettuare il promesso, havendone egli altre esperienze nelle passate negocii del suo Signore*).

To-day the two letters of the 28th ult. of your Serenity for the ambassador Barbarigo have reached me. I will execute the instructions therein, as I feel sure that such is the best course in the interests of the public service. I will speak to the Secretary Winwood, as this is the better course, since I am here without authority or credentials, and as the king himself has enjoined me

1616.

to do so. But ambassadors themselves are constrained to do the same thing, as His Majesty does not wish to be bothered by two frequent audiences except upon matters of great importance (*ma coll'istesso sonno costretti di negoziare i medesmi Ambri. da quali, eccettuate le cose di maggior importanza, non desidera la Maestà Sua di esser con audienze troppo frequenti molestato*).

London, the 16th June, 1616.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

June 16.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

312. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

A few days ago the French ambassador here received letters from the Court with news of the sending of Bethune to Italy and of his instructions. These will have reached your Excellencies earlier from a better source. However I venture to state them. Firstly there is the promise given by the king of Spain to the French that the forces of Milan are not to attack the duke, and that Bethune is to assure His Highness of this in the name of his Most Christian Majesty, so that greater disturbances may not arise. The duke is to restore some lands which he holds in the Langhe to Don Pedro, who will restore his. After receiving this promise from the duke Bethune is to go to Milan to receive that of the Governor and get him to confirm what the Catholic king has said and thus settle the differences. He is then to come to Venice and to arrange a settlement between your Serenity and the archduke, and to reduce all Italy to universal peace. He also has orders not to allow Spanish troops to enter Montferrat and to work with Don Pedro.

Some one asked the French ambassador for what purpose the Catholic king is keeping this force in the state of Milan, since he declares that he has no intentions against the duke of Savoy. The ambassador replied that it is kept there in order to render your Serenity more inclined to an accommodation with the Archduke Ferdinand, such as was accomplished some months ago by the States of Holland, when they raised the siege of the town of Brunswick, when pressed by the duke.

The Count of Schomberg, marshal of the Elector Palatine, has left England, *after receiving slight satisfaction from his negotiations with the king. He said that His Majesty keeps many things going, but decides nothing, and he complained about this to me. On the other hand the king says that the Palatine, his son-in-law, is very cold, and sometimes allows two months to go by without writing to him, and such like things, one complaining of the other, with little advantage.*

On the 10th inst. took place the restitution of Flushing to the States. It was effected with great ceremony, Prince Maurice coming to take possession. The conditions of restitution are these: they have paid 215,000*l.* sterling equivalent to 860,000 crowns, and the rest of the debt, which amounted to three millions, is diminished by some interest already current, and because the king maintained for fifteen years at his own expense all those troops in

1616.

the service of the States, which he used to keep in garrison in those fortresses, which amounted to 108,000 crowns a year, the States have engaged to make payment to the soldiers from time to time.

The chief causes which have moved the Dutch to secure the recovery of their fortresses are *because the English did not guard them with necessary care, and also because of the negotiations for a marriage with the Spaniards, a great number of the king's servants being interested on the side of the Catholic king. It is certain that the Spanish ambassador pays 150,000 crowns yearly in pensions to certain individuals at this Court, so that they feared that one day they might lose Flushing or one of the other places by the means of some corrupt Englishman, and your Excellencies may easily see the importance of this (perche dalli Inglesi non erano custodite con quel riguardo che bisognava, et anco per le trattationi che corrono de matrimonii con Spagnuoli, per veder gran parte de servitori del Re interessati col Catholico, essendo cosa certa che l'Ambr. de Spagna paga 150m. scudi all' anno di pensione a particolari soggetti in questa Corte, onde dubitavano che un giorno per opera di qualche Inglese corotto potessero perder Flesinghen, o alcuna delle altre piazze, che li sarebbe stato di quel momento che l'E.E. VV. con la loro soma prudenza possono conoscer).*

By letters from the Hague of 7th June I hear that news has arrived there that Count Henry Vanderberg, with a good number of Spanish troops, attempted to take by force the town of Neuss (*Nuys*), six leagues below Cologne, pretending that he wished to punish it as rebellious to the empire and to its prince, namely the Archbishop of Cologne; by this means he would have closed almost every passage of the Rhine. But the States showed that they would not tolerate this and although hitherto there has been no decisive resolution, it is thought that they will send their troops against him.

The other day I asked the Secretary Winwood what he thought about the affairs of Cleves. He said he thought that a fierce war would be kindled.

This week the States are sending a deputy by a warship to Barbary, with very strong letters to the Viceroy there for the release of the slaves and the observance of the articles arranged with the Grand Turk; and saying that if in the future they did not behave differently they would try another way to free themselves from the constant losses which they suffer in the Mediterranean.

Last Monday the ambassador Barbarigo's funeral ceremony was celebrated by his sons in their house. The ambassadors and a large gathering of English and foreign Catholics were present. This is the more remarkable as there is no memory of any other ambassador of a foreign prince who has died in this kingdom. They have not yet gone to kiss the king's hands, as he has been spending some days at Theobalds, hunting. He is returning to Greenwich to-day, when they will see him.

London, the 16th June, 1616.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphred.*]

1616.  
June 16.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**313. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

There are two troops of Italians in Flanders in the service of the archduke Albert, one commanded by Sig. Marcello dal Giudice, the other by Lelin Brancacio, a Neapolitan, knight of Malta. They number 4,000 and hail from all parts of Italy. They are the most courageous, honoured and valued soldiers *who are now serving, but owing to the difficulty of returning home, their pay and other reasons, I am told by one who knows that they might easily be induced to serve your Serenity. In discussing the means, I was told that as they are the most trusted, they are all posted on the frontiers of the Dutch, and if they obtained the permission of the States and if there was someone there to receive them in the name of your Serenity they could easily go to embark at Amsterdam, where ships would be ready to transport them. To effect this it would first be necessary to treat with the captains and other officers who are disposed to accept such a charge on account of their treatment by the Spaniards. They are mostly Romans or from the western march, but very valorous, and would readily take up anything to increase their fortune. If they passed the word among the soldiers that men were wanted for Italy, it is considered certain, by those who know Flanders, that in four or five days about a thousand Italians with some Walloons would assemble, all experienced in war and well armed.*

*The cost of taking these to Venice would be somewhat as follows :—*

*Food for 4 or 5 days while assembling, a ducat a head.*

*Food for three or four days more ; until the embarkation, a ducat.*

*A donation at embarking, 4 ducats.*

*Payment by the month on a voyage of two months, about 3 ducats.*

*Food on the voyage to Venice, about 10 ducats a head.*

*Two vessels to Venice, 8,000 ducats.*

*Munitions for the soldiers to fight, whatever your Serenity pleases, as they might lade as much as 6,000 ducats per ship, using what they needed on the voyage, while the rest might be kept under guard and consigned to the arsenal or elsewhere.*

*By this reckoning it would cost 22,000 ducats to take a thousand of these men to Venice, without the military provisions. For the rest it is not probable that the States will raise any difficulty about the passage, as it is not contrary to their truce, while the most courageous soldiers of the enemy will be removed.*

*I have reported this in order not to omit anything that may be of service to your Serenity. I have obtained the particulars from one who knows Flanders well, and who offers to take part in the negotiations. Your Excellencies may receive further information from Sig. Pompeo Giustiniano ; it would also be of great assistance if you sent Sig. Cornelius de Vimes, a Flemish gentleman of great experience, not only in military matters, but with a great knowledge of the whole country, who has worked for your Serenity with the Swiss and the Grisons.*

London, the 16th June, 1616.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

1616.  
June 16.  
Collegio,  
Ceremoniale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

314. The Secretary of England announced the arrival of Sir Henry Wotton in this city, but with the intimation that he wished to remain in retirement for some days owing to his numerous occupations, as there were some English gentlemen who wished to offer their services to the republic; he asked pardon for his delay in coming to pay his respects. The doge expressed their pleasure at his arrival, and said they would be glad to see him.

The Secretary returned some days later and announced that the ambassador would make his entry on the following Sunday, if it pleased his Serenity. It was accordingly arranged that the senators should go and fetch His Excellency at San Giorgio Maggiore, although previously the ambassador of Great Britain had as well been fetched at San Spirito. This was accordingly done, and on the following morning the senators went to fetch him from his house and bring him to the Cabinet, where he was graciously received by the doge. The usual refreshments were subsequently offered.

[*Italian.*]

June 16.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

315. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

I ventured to open the letters of your Excellencies of the 27 May to Sig. Barbarigo, who is dead, to see if there were any orders which I might execute, but finally I have decided to await instructions.

From London, the 16 June, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

June 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

316. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

The deliberation of the Senate of the 28th May was read to the Catholic ambassador and Marshal Manriquez. They replied by pressing for the restoration of the places before a remedy was applied to the Uscochi; and further raised fresh difficulties. We delayed our reply until we heard from the governor. At first, in conversation with the secretary Vincenti, he seemed to disapprove of these new movements of the ministers, but he would not reply before receiving their letters. Two days later he told our secretary that he approved of the position of the ministers. He said that the Catholic ambassador and the bishop of Trieste informed him that these bandits would be removed only from our state and not from the Turkish country, but these are the worst. This simply means the continuation of the disorders. We may say that the matter has ended badly. You will inform His Majesty of these particulars. Our position, you will inform him, consists of two points: A remedy against the Uscochi and the question of the posts. In the first we simply ask for the fulfilment of promises, to punish robbers and burn their boats. These would have been fulfilled if evil intentioned and interested ministers had not interfered. We only insist upon this in self defence.

The Catholic ambassador appears to be acting in such a manner as to lead to throwing everything into confusion. You will inform His Majesty of as much as you see fit about this.



1616.

You will also impart the above information to the ambassador of the States, as a sign of friendship. In speaking to the king you will lay particular stress upon the great advantages we may derive from the exercise of his authority and of his friendship for the republic, by declarations and acts as at other times. You will inform him of the offices performed in Italy by M. de Bethune, ambassador extraordinary of France, for the purpose of disarming the duke of Savoy, while keeping the Spaniards armed in the state of Milan, to place the republic at a disadvantage in dealing with the archduke. In the same way the French ministers never cease their efforts to counteract all our offices with the Grisons. You will tell His Majesty that we shall do our utmost for the duke of Savoy by the levy of 4,000 French, leaving 2,000 at his disposition, and we are ready to do anything else in reason for the common service and the good of that prince.

Ayes 168.

Noes 1.

Neutral 1.

[Italian.]

June 18.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

317. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

You will provide with all information and whatever is needed for the proper execution of his task, the secretary Christoforo Suriano, who, by public decree, is going to the States to inform them upon current affairs.

Ayes 147.

Noes 4.

Neutrals 2.

[Italian.]

June 19.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disposci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

318. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have seen the duke, and in the course of our conversation he spoke strongly against the Spaniards. He said: They have fomented villains against the republic, they keep up the archduke's army, they pay whole nations, they have erected forts to cut off all help, they have bought France with their gold, and are trying to buy England by negotiating a marriage, all to further their vast ambitions.

Turin, the 19th June, 1616.

[Italian.]

June 19.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disposci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

319. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

As I was about to send off these despatches a courier has arrived from London with news of the death of my dear friend the ambassador Barbarigo, which has filled me with grief.

Turin, the 19th June, 1616.

[Italian.]

1616.

June 20.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Padova.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**320. The RECTORS of PADUA to the DOGE and SENATE.**

We received information this morning from the Rectors of Vicenza of the expected arrival here of lord Dingwall, a Scotchman of high rank, on his way to Venice, who has been highly honoured by the representatives of your Serenity wherever he has been. Accordingly we prepared to receive him, and on his arrival we bestowed upon him such honours as we thought fitting and invited him to dine in the palace of the Captain with his three companions. One of these serves as interpreter, as he does not understand Italian. He accepted the invitation and the Podestà pressed him to stay this evening and sup with him, but he expressed a wish to continue his journey. So he left this evening, thanking us for the courtesy shown to him.

Padua, the 20th June, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

June 21.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**321. OTTAVIO BON and PIERO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The English ambassador has called upon us. After the usual compliments he said that he had spoken to some of the Council about the affairs of the republic, and, in conformity with his instructions he had shown them that the service of the republic was not unconnected with that of their kingdom, and that it befitted the dignity of their king to express his friendly feeling by deeds, not words; they replied in the usual French fashion, showing plenty of good intentions, but he could not venture to promise anything.

Paris, the 21st June, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

June 21.

Consiglio di X.  
Parti  
Comuni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**322.** That leave be granted to Zuane Rizzardo to go at once to the house of the new ambassador of England, who has expressed a desire in the Cabinet to speak to him. He shall report what is said to him.

Ayes 14.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

June 22.

Senato,  
Terra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**323. To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.**

We are satisfied with your execution of the instructions which reached you after the death of the ambassador Barbarigo. You will continue to do the like with the others. We are certain that the ambassador's sons will receive from His Majesty and his ministers those favours which are required for their journey and for their household and goods.

Ayes 126.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

1616.  
June 22.  
Senato,  
Terra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**324.** Owing to the death of the ambassador Barbarigo on the 8th inst. that another ambassador be elected in his place, under the penalties provided in case of refusal. The one elected shall receive for his expenses 300 gold ducats a month for which he need render no account; for horses, trappings and chests, 300 ducats of lire 6 gr. 4. His secretary shall receive 100 ducats to put himself in order, and the two couriers who accompany him 20 ducats each, as is usual. 40 crowns a month of lire 7 are assigned for all other expenses except couriers and the carriage of letters. The chaplain shall receive 180 ducats a year and the interpreter 100 ducats. He must start when the council see fit.

Ayes 126.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

June 22.  
Senato.  
Terra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**325.** That a donation of 2,000 gold crowns of lire 7 be paid to the two sons of the late ambassador Barbarigo, as a testimony of the satisfaction of the republic, seeing that the late ambassador was not qualified to receive the usual donation from the republic or the usual gifts from the king.

Ayes 172.

Noes 8.

Neutral 10.

On June 22, in the Cabinet, Ayes 20.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

June 22.  
Senato,  
Terra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**326.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.

We are much grieved at the news of the death of the ambassador Barbarigo. We direct you, when you see His Majesty, the ministers and the grandees of the court, to thank them warmly in our name, adding that we have chosen another ambassador to maintain our good relations with His Majesty, namely Antonio Donato. Meanwhile we instruct you to remain at court and inform us of all that passes worthy of our notice. In order that you may provide yourself with horses and other necessities, to keep up a proper appearance, we have granted you 300 ducats and have assigned to you 120 crowns of lire 7 a month for your expenses, to begin from the day of the ambassador's death, and 10 crowns a month for other expenses, except couriers and the carriage of letters, for which we have made a provision of 150 ducats of lire 6 gr. 4, for which you will render account on your return. We further grant you a gift of 200 ducats for expenses of mourning. You will continue the services of the chaplain and interpreter of the late ambassador for which we shall give you the usual allowance.

Ayes 126.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

1616.

June 22.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.

Lettere agli  
Ambasciatori  
d' Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**327. The INQUISITORS of STATE to GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England.**

Express grief at the news of the death of the ambassador Barbarigo. The secretary will remain in charge with the custody of all minutes, letters and documents, which are not to be communicated to others, and to be delivered up on his return.

[*Italian.*]

June 23.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**328. To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.**

Our troops in Istria have inflicted some damage upon the enemy. Our horse have penetrated to Zemino, engaged the enemy and brought back some booty, without loss. The people of Atbona have entered the archducal territory as far as Cosliaco and Pedena, taking 2,500 animals. They have burned several houses near Trieste. Nothing of moment has taken place in Friuli, as although the archducal force drew out near Gradisca, they did not advance to a place where they could be attacked by our forces.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Savoy, Zurich, Naples, Milan, Florence.

Ayes 160.

Noes 3.

Neutral 6.

[*Italian.*]

June 24.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**329. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Last Sunday I went to Greenwich to see the secretary Winwood and communicated to him the contents of your Excellencies' letters of the 28th May, so that he might inform His Majesty. I first told him of what had taken place in Friuli and Istria, with all the particulars. He was amazed, as everyone must be, when he heard of the barbarous cruelty practised by the archduke's men to the subjects and territory of your Serenity. But they simply say that this is the usual thing at the beginning of all wars, which after a while are conducted with more humanity; that at the beginning of the revolution of the Low Countries the cruelty was extraordinary, but both parties afterwards agreed to observe the usual practices of war. With regard to the negotiations of the marquis Manriquez, upon which I gave him full information, pointing out the fickleness shown by the governor of Milan, and the consequences which must arise from his inclinations, Winwood answered that the king had the same news with regard to the provision of troops made by Don Pedro, from which and from his general proceedings it is clear that he desires war. He said nothing further, but by his expression he showed that he was much moved.

When I began to tell him of the journey of the ambassador Gussoni through Germany and of the orders received from your Excellencies to visit the Elector Palatine first of all, the secretary interrupted me, saying that it was unnecessary to report this to His Majesty, since he had been distinctly advised of all by the Elector

1616.

himself. I begged him, all the same, to hear me, and went on to tell him of the friendly replies received by the ambassador from the various princes, and of the courteous offers which they had made to him, and how the duke of Wirtemberg in particular had said that none could more fitly intervene for an accommodation than the princes of the Union, offering his services to send in their name an express ambassador to His Imperial Majesty and the archduke, for which the ambassador Gussoni thanked him. Your Excellencies had performed the same offices with all the princes, and your Serenity desired to give special information about this to His Majesty, with the usual confidence, because, in addition to other reasons, he is the head of that Union.

The secretary said that this had not actually been heard by the king, whom he would inform about it at the first opportunity, and if His Majesty wished to say anything in reply, he would let me know. I begged him to grant me permission to call on him some day to learn if he had any reply to give me. He replied that it was not necessary, as most certainly if he had anything to tell me after he had spoken with the king, he would send for me. I did not insist any further, as this offer of the duke of Wirtemberg is more likely to be favoured if the king is inclined to it, than obtained in any other way. I have been waiting until to-day for Winwood to send for me, but nothing has happened and I cannot even be certain that he has given the information to the king. The latter has been hunting every day of late and three days ago he went to Theobalds. However, as His Majesty has fixed Sunday next for seeing the sons of Sig. Barbarigo, who will go to kiss hands at Greenwich, I may then see Winwood, and with good fortune hear what has taken place. It may very well be that the secretary has delayed telling me anything, because they are daily expecting news here of the operations of M. de Bethune, and the king and his ministers will not discuss any of the affairs of Italy, however insignificant, until that time as Winwood has several times declared to the ambassador of Savoy and to me, and as I have written before.

I have also been to see M. Caron, ambassador of the States, passing those offices with him which your Excellencies command, and begging him to write to his masters to testify to the continued friendship and esteem of your Serenity. He has promised to do this, but I do not know how much he will do. He has lived for many years in this city under various titles, and has always given more time and attention to matters of trade than to negotiations of state. He avoids as much as possible negotiating with the ministers of princes, and when the ambassador Barbarigo begged him many times to write to his masters upon current affairs, he never gave any other reply, but when I was at the Hague I could not discover that he had written to the States anything of importance. I decided to acquaint your Serenity with this so that you may know what results your most prudent officers produce in the various places.

Yesterday evening I received your Serenity's letters of the 3rd June, containing the same news as the last, but with clearer information. I have as yet had no occasion to make use of them.

London, the 24th June, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

1616.

June 24.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives

**330. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

A report is current among the best informed persons at Court that His Majesty has dismissed the French ambassador upon the negotiations for the marriage with the sister of the Most Christian King, and is continually approaching nearer to an alliance with Spain. Thus there is a close understanding between lord Roos, who is selected to go to the Catholic king, and the Spanish ambassador resident here. The secretary Lake, his father-in-law, enjoys the same confidence. The latter told a person in my confidence that matters are so far advanced that they can hardly suffer any serious reverse, and in a week or so it will be made known to the Council, by which it would appear that the king has quite made up his mind. The archbishop of Canterbury, who is the chief subject in the kingdom, and who has not been favourable in the past, is now said to be willing to advocate it to the people as being salutary to the kingdom, with many plausible reasons.

Six days ago there arrived in this city one of the Appiani from Basel, sent by prince Francis Julius of the house of Saxony, second son of duke Francis, who holds some states near Lubeck and other Hanse towns. He is a young man anxious for employment and desires to come and serve your Excellencies against the archduke. As yet he has no introduction, but he has written to the king here begging him to honour him with his advice and with letters of recommendation to your Serenity. Appiani has already spoken to the king and presented letters to him, but as yet he has received no reply. He has been to see me, telling me of the prince's wishes, adding that though he is young he is of great spirit and would have valourous captains under him. He proposed to bring 4,500 infantry with him or a large number of horse. If all that he told me is true, this bringing of these men to your territory would cost little and would be easier than many other levies, which your Excellencies might make, always supposing, however, that the pass of the Grisons is not so closed that the men could not pass in small companies. He told me that the prince enjoyed confidential relations with the elector Palatine, the margrave of Baden and other princes nearer Switzerland, from whom he feels confident he can obtain leave to make the levies in their states, which would only be a short distance from Basel, from whence, in a few days and with great ease, he could lead them wherever he was directed. He is of the confession of Augsburg, and although of the house of Saxony has but little leaning towards that of Austria. He proposes, so soon as he has received the advice and letters of His Majesty, to betake himself to Venice, where he has previously been *incognito*, to treat with your Serenity. I encouraged him to continue his plans, assuring him that the recommendation of the king would always have great weight with the republic, which is, moreover, always disposed to receive and honour all the princes of Germany and of that house in particular.

At the restitution of Flushing and even more at that of Brill a mutiny took place among the English soldiers in those places, who refused to leave before they had been paid for their clothing, as

1616.

they are the creditors of the king and their pay for the preceding six months has been already deducted. The matter was disputed awhile with some peril to viscount Lisle, governor of Flushing, but at length all was pacified, the States having paid 6 crowns per soldier, which will be made good by the king of England.

Three days ago the king spent three hours with the ambassador of the States. He spoke to him in particular about the restitution of the country of Cleves to the margrave of Brandenburg. The archduke asked that the Dutch should do this and expressed his readiness to perform similar offices with the duke of Neuburg. Accordingly this matter is being warmly pressed upon the States by the kings of France and England but the States perceive in it an open artifice of the Spaniards to their grave prejudice. Accordingly they have resolved not to consent, and this is what the Dutch ambassador replied to His Majesty.

From Flanders, Holland and Cleves there is at present no news. The attempt upon Neuss met with no success, and thus all parties continue quiet but in the midst of shadows and suspicions.

At the Hague the confederation with the Hanse towns has been definitely concluded for twelve years, with an obligation upon each city to supply one fifth of a hundred for the establishment of their countries, for the defence of their liberty and free navigation in all parts of the world, against anyone whomsoever who may attempt to hinder them. The ambassadors of the towns were to return home last week, with great satisfaction.

The king of Denmark has prepared war ships to prevent the ships of the States from whale fishing. The latter are setting out at this time, well escorted, and consequently some news is expected. If it happens this year it may involve important consequences.

It is announced that the peace between the king of Sweden and the Muscovite has been satisfactorily arranged by the interposition of the English and Dutch ambassadors.

London, the 24th June, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

June 24.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

331. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS of STATE.

One Angelo Nodari, a musician of Padua, who is in the city, told me six days ago that the ambassador of Spain and Sir [William] Smith were in possession of several letters written by Foscarini to the Senate. I have a poor opinion of the man, and as he is an enemy both of Foscarini and of the secretary Muscorno I concluded that this was some device to prejudice one of them and placed little faith in it, simply telling him that he should contrive to get me one letter that I might see in whose hand it was written and that he should bring me other proofs. This he promised to do.

He came back in two days, repeating the same story and added that if I wanted to have the secret and would give him something, he would get me the letters which are in Smith's hands. This made me think that there was some bottom in the matter, and I promised him some reward if he would try to recover the letters for me.

1616.

He came again this morning saying that he had the affair in good train as after much trouble he had induced Smith to let him see the letters and make copies of them, assuring me that he has great quantities (*molte e molte*) of the ambassador Foscari's letters in his hands as well as those written jointly by him and the ambassador Barbarigo, up to November 20. He offered to disclose the whole affair as well as the person who told him. He gave me particulars which still further persuaded me, in particular that in the margin in certain places there is writing in cipher and in some places Sig. Foscari describes entire audiences which the ambassador of Savoy had of the king. I believed this the more readily because the ambassador of France said that he had seen some of Foscari's letters on such matters, as Barbarigo wrote to your Excellencies on 14 January last. Yet I am amazed and confused at this strange thing, not only for the harm that may have been done in the past; but because it may continue in the future if the letters of your Serenity should be opened in Flanders or elsewhere. I asked him to let me see these letters, promising him a handsome reward, which he will richly deserve if so prejudicial a matter be discovered by his means. He told me that this Sir [William] Smith is the one who is the creditor of the secretary Muscorno for 600 crowns. He will be induced to disclose the matter in the hope of facilitating the recovery of the debt. Without committing myself I said that by such an action he would certainly render himself worthy of all protection. He promised to bring the letters on Sunday or Monday, and I await him anxiously as he seems to have a matter of the greatest importance.

As regards the ambassador of Spain, Nodari, who is engaged in his house, says that while he was dining with him with one Bernardi and a Genoese physician the ambassador remarked, Sig. Foscari was not a bad fellow especially in public matters. He writes well as appears by copies of his public letters in my possession, bought for a great price.

With regard to the letters written jointly by the ambassadors Foscari and Barbarigo, I can assure your Excellencies that there is no danger on our side as all public documents are kept safely either in register or in file, in the custody of His Excellency or of myself, without anyone being able to see them. Thus the French ambassador bribed one of my servants recently to bring him my registers whilst I was in bed so that they might be replaced early in the morning. But the youth, being faithful, apprised me of the fact the moment he returned from the ambassador's house and even if he had been of evil intent he could not have committed the treason, because my papers are in a separate room where no one but myself sets foot.

I shall await instructions. I have received the letters of 3 June, directed to Sig. Barbarigo, and I beg your Excellencies to excuse me from undertaking the affair of the examinations without order, as it is always easier to make good an omission than an error.

From London, the 24 June, 1616.

[*Italian.*]



1616.  
June 26.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Disposci.  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**332. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the  
DOGE and SENATE.**

When the duke, the Marshal Lesdiguières, M. de Bethune, the minister of the king of Great Britain and I, with the count of Vervins and the Secretary Crotti were all gathered in one room, His Highness said: We have sent for you so that the affairs relating to the peace may be laid before you. Bethune said that he had been sent to see that the treaty of Asti was completed. His mission was only to His Highness and he was not bound to negotiate in the presence of others, but as he was in the presence of ministers of princes friendly to France he thought he might speak. The whole difficulty consisted in disarming the Spaniards; but they say they are not bound to this as the treaty of Asti does not provide for fresh accidents. They were only keeping 5,000 men, which was no considerable number for so great a prince. The treaty should be carried out, but he could speak more fully after his journey to Milan, where he would show the utmost diligence, and as he is the Spaniard here he would be the Savoyard there.

The duke would not suffer it to be said that the treaty did not include disarmament and sent for the original document with the ratification under the seal of their Majesties and read the words about disarming and the article not to grant the pass for six months. The minister of England said that his master claimed that the army should be entirely disbanded, and every man sent home, or that it should be sent out of Europe, because it will not do for it to be sent to molest others and carry war elsewhere. He had instructions to send word of the negotiations and their result, because His Majesty was resolved not to break his word or fail the most sincere friends that he possesses, the republic of Venice and the duke of Savoy.

The French ambassador waxed wroth and said: What, these troops must leave Europe; what high pretensions are these! The agent replied that they must not be sent to Flanders, but if they decide to do so the remedy would be easy. I spoke in favour of peace and said that the French crown had taken a hand in concluding the treaty of Asti, and promised that it should be completely carried out. The only sure means of procuring peace was by disarmament. I had instructions to try that this might be carried out.

The duke concluded the conference by saying: You may judge which is the just cause. I am the injured party, the district round Asti is a picture of the wrongs inflicted upon me; I have sustained a struggle alone against 40,000 armed men, and God alone has saved me. The word of the king of France has disarmed me, and it is not right that I should be abandoned. I demand justice. If the king my cousin wishes me to be beaten and subdued, let us two alone fight it out sword in hand.

The Marquis Lesdiguières, who had not opened his mouth for three hours together, though he listened very attentively, said with much gravity: The duke is right, the Spaniards must disarm; the treaty is clear and the king must unsheath his sword to have it executed.

M. de Bethune declared that he would go to Milan and do his part. The duke retorted that the Governor must disarm or he shall

1616.

beg the duke to do so, and whispered in my ear, I will supply the men and the republic the money, and the leader shall be your humble servant. Finally Bethune said that he would go to Milan on Tuesday and send word immediately of Don Pedro's wishes.

Turin, the 26 June, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

June 26.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**333.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Acknowledges receipt of letters announcing the election of his brother to the Camera d'Imprestedi, and of himself as ambassador to England. We three brothers shall always be ready to spend our lives and fortunes in the service of the republic.

Turin, the 26 June, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

June 27.  
Consigliodi X.

Parti  
Communi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**334.** That leave be granted to Marc Antonio Correr to visit once the newly arrived ambassador of the king of Great Britain, and to receive his visit in return, as a matter of courtesy, owing to their acquaintance while Correr was ambassador with that Crown.

Ayes 16.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

June 27.

Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**335.** SIR HENRY WOTTON, the new English Ambassador, came into the Cabinet and said :

It is unusual for an ambassador to return a second time to a place where he has once served. As many may conceive opinions upon this remote from the purposes of my king and my own sincerity, I will begin by stating how it has fallen out. Some two years ago His Majesty sent for me upon some extraordinary occasion, when I was twenty miles away from London. His Majesty passed over my faults, and graciously informed me that he proposed to employ me on one of the ordinary embassies. I thanked His Majesty, and though it does not become a subject to ask when and how, yet his extreme kindness emboldened me to ask that the choice might be left to me. This was granted, and I chose to come and serve the republic. I had three reasons for this. Firstly, my natural inclination for the Italians, whom I have loved and esteemed since first I crossed the Alps. Secondly, my admiration for this marvellous Government, replete with persons of such distinction, led me on, as I always take a singular delight in the contemplation of its worthy institutions. The third reason why I preferred this charge to all others was that my imperfections had been borne with for the six years and four months of my first embassy, and I felt sure that the same kindness and sufferance would be extended to me again. His Majesty approved my reasons and praised my good judgment. I went to the States in the matter of the treaty of Xanten, which was

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expected to be an affair of two months and took fourteen. This will explain why I have come to reside here a second time.

The king my master commands me to salute your Serenity and your Excellencies in his name. I present my letters of credit. I must excuse their being five months old. His Majesty sent them to me on leaving London. Owing to the disturbances in France at the time, as I proposed to go that way, I awaited a convenient season and a favourable opportunity. But His Majesty directed me to go by way of Germany to fulfil some commissions with the princess Palatine, his daughter, so my journey was prolonged. I also received orders to pass through Savoy and visit that truly heroic prince who well deserves the title of duke, and I could not possibly stay with him less than ten days, so difficult is it to tear oneself away from that most gracious prince. The letter is as follows:—

Jacobus etc. Domino Joanni Bembo, Venetae Republicae Duci, amico nostro charissimo, salutem etc.

Henricus Wottonus, eques aureatus ad vos redit, qua in re et nostro judicio et suo desiderio satisfacimus; nobis quidem fidem ejus, ac diligentia, variis jam legationibus probate sunt quibus nunc ornatior, in istius super omnes alias celebratissimae et vetustissimae Republicae gremium revertitur, cujus dignitatem, magnificentiam, pulchritudinem, coeteraque admirabilia saepius nobis predicavit, quo digniorem aestimavimus, qui apud Serenitatem Vestram hoc munere fungatur, pro communis amicitiae pignore. Huic igitur legato nostro ut Serenitas Vestra faveat rogamus, eique in tractandis quae obvenerint negociis, eandem quam nobismet ipsis fidem adhibeat. Deus optimus maximus Serenitatem Vestram universamque Rempublicam in florentissimo statu conservet.

Jacobus Rex.

After the letter had been read the ambassador went on to congratulate the doge on his election. He continued: I have come here a second time not so much by the choice of His Majesty as by my own special disposition, as there is no lack of other subjects more worthy to sustain this charge. I propose to live rather as a philosopher than as a courtier. Neither I nor my household will ever do harm to anyone. We propose to remain quiet without scandal or offence, at peace with everyone.

The doge replied thanking His Majesty for his expressions of affection. He also thanked the ambassador, welcoming him on his return to that embassy.

The ambassador replied: I have a sad and painful duty to perform touching the loss of the ambassador Barbarigo, for which I offer condolences to your Serenity. I had special opportunities of knowing him and I feel his loss so acutely that I cannot find words to express it. His Majesty has supplied my weakness by his letter, which I had intended to present at another audience, but which I may now offer.

Jacobus etc. Domino Joanni Bembo, Venetae Republicae Duci, amico nostro charissimo, salutem etc.

Innopinatus Gregorii Barbarigi vestri apud nos nuperi legati obitus, duplicem nobis animi molestiam attulit, nam et Serenitatem Vestram tali ministro oblatam, pro mutua benevolentia nostra, uti par est, dolemus, et tam gravi casu optimi viri, cujus probitatem,

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ac prudentiam, et amicitiae nostrae fovendae, conservendaeque studium perspectissimum habuimus, merito commovemur, sed ea lege nati summus, ut quicquid homini accidere possit equis animis ferendum cogitemus. Ad liberos et familiam defuncti quod attinet, ea cura adhibebitur, ut nullum aliud incommodum sentiant, praeter desiderium optimi parentis, et Domini, si quidem, et dum manebunt in Regno nostro et cum discedent, non solum tuta iis omnia praebimus, verum etiam nihil de esse patiemur, quod consentaneum videatur, ipsique expectare possint. Quod reliquum est quicumque alius a Serenitate Vestra mittetur in locum defuncti successurus, ipsius adventus erit nobis admodum gratus, eoque modo accipietur, et tractabitur, quo aequum est accipi et tractari legatum Principis tam amici tamque arctis benevolentiae vinculis nobiscum conjuncti.

Datum e manerio nostro Grenovici, xxix. die Maii Anno Domini, 1616. JACOBUS REX.

Before the letter was read the ambassador said: Allow me to say a word about the appointment of Sig. Antonio Donato as ambassador to my king. I knew and valued him at Turin and am much delighted at this appointment. After the doge had replied in courteous terms the ambassador departed.

[*Italian.*]

June 29.  
Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**336.** SIR HENRY WOTTON, Ambassador of England came into the Cabinet with LORD DINGWALL (*Dinguel*), a Scotchman, who was given a place above the Savii of Terra Firma. The ambassador said:

I have a letter from His Majesty introducing the Viscount Dingwall. He is not travelling to advance his fortunes, since he is well provided by birth and with property, being the sole heir of the countess of Colorno in Ireland, the leading one in that kingdom.\* Therefore he has no need to seek advancement except for his reputation, and it is not necessary for him to seek the love of other princes, since he enjoys the special affection of his own. I may say there is no other Scotchman so popular as he is at court, both with the Scots and the English. All that your Serenity can do for him will be very grateful to His Majesty.

The viscount then rose, and as he did not know Italian, the ambassador interpreted for him. The viscount thanked the republic for the favours granted to him, which he had experienced in dealing with the ambassadors Foscarini and Barbarigo. He greatly regretted that the one was in prison and the other dead. At all events he was ready to serve the republic, and presented the following letter.

Jacobus etc. Domino Joanni Bembo Venetiarum duci, amico suo charissimo, salutem:

\* The secretary has probably misunderstood Wotton. Richard Preston married Elizabeth, widow of Theobald viscount Butler of Tulleophelim, and only daughter of Thomas Butler, earl of Ormonde and Ossory. She died in January, 1613, and in the following year her father died, leaving the estates to his heir male, his nephew Walter Butler. This nephew refused to surrender the estates to Preston, and for this he suffered imprisonment until James's death. G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*.

1616.

Egit nobis cum Antonius Foscarius dum hic apud nos legati vestri munere fungeretur, ut si forte Celsitudini vestre e re vestra futurum videretur ut subditi aliquot nostri vestris stipendiis militature conscriberentur non solum id concedere dignaremur, verum, et ipsis Richardum Prestonum, Baronem Digualensem preficeremus: Gregorius quoque Barbaricus legatus itidem vester non ita pridem memorato Prestano suavit ut quae Fuscarius coeperat prosequeretur, et perficeret id Celsitudini Vestre non ingratum futurum. Ideoque Prestanus, ut sibi ad Celsitudinem Vestram proficisci, suamque operam offerre nostra liceret, serio, supplexque a nobis petiit: id tam evix petente recusare non potuimus, homini praesertim, quem non immerito diligimus. Is enim Prestonus est quem et ab ipsis pene incunabulis ipsis educavimus, et postquam adolevit, fortem, fidumque sepius experti sumus. Nil igitur mirum, si hominem nobiscum natum altum, educatum, et non semel probatum commendamus vobisque (si ejus opera uti libeat) gratias agamus, qui cum ad tam illustre munus obeandum evocaveritis, cum non dubitemus illum ita suum studium, fidemque vobis probaturum, ut vestri in eum beneficii minime vos imposterum poeniteat. Quodcumque autem ille vobiscum pepigerit id eum omnem sedulo prestiturum audacter pollicemur. Alia huc spectantia plenius ab ipso Celsitudo vestra intelliget. Nos itaque longioris epistolae tedio supersedemus et Vestrae Celsitudini reiue publicae vestrae fausta omnia precamus.

E regia nostra ad Westmonasterium prope Londinum, Cal. Maii 1616.

Cels<sup>a</sup> V. amicus Amantissimus

JACOBUS REX.

The doge assured the ambassador that they welcomed the Baron with peculiar satisfaction. After this the ambassador and Viscount departed after making a reverence to His Serenity, and leaving a letter of Sig. Barbarigo, which was then read.

Most Serene Prince:

Lord Dingwall is setting out to offer his services to your Serenity. He shows the more devotion because he desires to learn your mind in person the better to execute your commands. He goes with the favour of His Majesty, who is always well inclined to those who desire to serve your Serenity.

From London, the 14 May, 1616.

Gregorio Barbarigo, Ambassador.

In the superscription of the king's letter an error was observed, the doge being addressed as Most Illustrious instead of Most Serene. It was explained that this was due to the error of some new secretary.

[Italian.]

June 30.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

337. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

Nothing of moment has happened this week in Friuli. From Istria the Proveditore inform us that on hearing from deserters of the plans of the enemy, he gathered all his forces, and advanced in the direction of Trieste, burned ten mills and captured a quantity of grain, destroying much else. He also burned some villages and as

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many as 180 houses. The Proveditore Barbaro also made a raid into the archducal country and inflicted some damage.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Savoy Zurich, Surian, Milan, Florence, Naples.

Ayes 148.

Noes 1.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

July 1.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disposci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**338.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England to the DOGE and SENATE.

Seeing that the Secretary Winwood never sent me any word in reply to my last office, I went to see him upon another pretext and asked him if he had made the communication to His Majesty. He told me yes, and His Majesty praises all that your Excellencies are doing in the present affairs and especially the offices of the ambassador Gussoni with the Princes of Germany. With regard to what the duke of Wirtemberg had said about sending ambassadors to the emperor and the archduke, your Excellencies would do well to confer with the princes about it, if you thought that it would be a profitable course to follow. I replied that I did not believe that your Excellencies proposed to ask such a thing of the princes, but that as the duke of Wirtemberg had volunteered this idea, you had thanked him for his goodwill and had wished to inform His Majesty, as the head of the Union, and in order to keep up the usual confidence in giving him all particulars of your affairs. The Secretary simply repeated the same, and I did not say any more, perceiving that His Majesty was disinclined to promote this embassy of himself.

*Besides what I have been able to see for myself, the ambassador of Savoy told me that the king and his ministers are somewhat cold in the affairs of your Serenity because they are not entirely satisfied in their minds, by reason of the late negotiations for a league. The day before yesterday Winwood had complained to him that the king had received word from Italy that your Excellencies had sent some money to the duke of Savoy to raise troops and make war on his own account upon the state of Milan, which His Highness refused to do before he had a better understanding with your Excellencies, and they had made an alliance together, but that you would not listen to this. The ambassador Donato had adopted the same line with the agent of England, who had approached him, so that they understood that the ideas of your Serenity were somewhat different from theirs, and that you would readily discharge yourselves of your troubles; but that in spite of all Sir [Henry] Wotton had made new proposals for a league at Venice in order to put this to the test again. The ambassador swore to me that he had none of this information from Piedmont, but he had endeavoured by various representations to remove this shadow from the mind of the secretary. He would do the same with the king if he had the opportunity, as he knew that he would be doing the will of of his master by engaging himself in the service of your Serenity. I thanked him, and said some words about the right intentions of your Excellencies, so that he might turn my remarks to account if*

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he had the opportunity. I shall do the same if anyone speaks to me on the subject.

On Sunday the sons of Barbarigo took leave of the king. He received them very graciously and after Sig. Gio. Francesco had spoken, His Majesty graciously replied. Yesterday they performed the same office with the queen, and they will continue with others, hoping to leave in a few days.

I have received this week your Serenity's letters of the 10th June. I will use the information about events in Friuli and Istria where necessary.

London, the 1st July, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

July 1.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra,  
Venetian  
Archives.

**339.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

On Tuesday evening letters of the last day of May reached the ambassador of Savoy from Turin. With these he went on the following morning to the Secretary Winwood, telling him in the duke's name that Bethune had come to Italy with commissions considerably colder than the French had given the ministers of His Highness to understand, as upon the principal point of disarming he has come for nothing except to assure the duke that their arms shall not hurt him, and that His Most Christian Majesty was most straitly bound to this. After the usual compliments, the duke had replied that this was unnecessary since His Majesty together with the king of England and the republic, was straitly bound to the treaty of Asti; that he desired no greater bond, especially as he had already been deceived once by the Spaniards under this promise, and he would not wait for a second. What he desired from His Majesty was the total disarmament of the state of Milan and the fulfilment of the treaty of Asti. As Bethune had no more particular instructions upon this, the duke proposed to keep him in Piedmont, under the pretext of wishing the intervention at the conference of the Marshal Lesdiguières. Meanwhile he sent a courier to France to ask their Majesties to send other and fuller instructions to the ambassador. With this in view His Highness agreed to confer with Lesdiguières, although he knew that it would be of little use, as the object of the French was to have him persuaded by the marshal, owing to the confidential relations between them, to agree to accept the promise of the king of France, and allow the Governor of Milan to arm as much as he pleases, which is not his purpose. The duke also complains that Bethune had commissions to tell him that he ought not to increase his forces, and especially to desist from enlisting Frenchmen. It seems to His Highness that these are the very same terms as those of last year, and he does not understand what is the object of the French in agreeing that the Governor of Milan shall be armed while he must live at his discretion. In conclusion the ambassador told the secretary Winwood that they saw what Bethune was doing and what result might be expected from his coming to Italy; that there was no time to lose and his master being in a situation of such peril, his friends ought to do what they can to help him, especially the king here, in conformity with his courteous

1616.

expressions. He then produced a sheet with some points upon which the duke complained of the Spaniards after the treaty of Asti. So far as I remember they were about a prisoner at Mantua who wished to poison His Highness and the Spaniards do not wish him to be handed over to him; of their practices with the count of Ronigliasco by the marquis of Este in order to alienate the prince of Piedmont from his father; of the imprisonment of the secretary Schiavi at Milan; of an intelligence discovered at Asti of having given money to the Count of Boglio to alienate him from His Highness; of having corrupted and removed Colonel Alardo and by his means contrived other practices in his state, with plots recently discovered against two of his fortresses, and of another circumstance of importance which he will not mention now, but will publish it in time, with the proofs.

To all this discourse secretary Winwood replied somewhat generally, promising to obtain audience of the king for him for next Monday, and that he should receive a reply from His Majesty's lips. He assured him that Lord Hay, who is in France, has been most straitly charged to make strong representations to the Most Christian King, the queen and still more the princes, for the disarmament of the state of Milan, and that nothing will be left undone to secure the peace of Italy.

The ordinary English ambassador at Paris has written to the king that he has had audience of the Most Christian King and urged him to endeavour to find a way of accommodating the affairs of Savoy, and that the treaty of Asti may be duly carried out, so as not to give rise to any fresh and more serious rupture. His Most Christian Majesty replied that all the world sees what he is doing in this conjunction, that he has sent the ambassador Bethune to Italy and does what he can for the preservation of peace; he did not know what more he could do, and showed that he did not receive the office of the king of England in good part.

All these things will have reached your Excellencies much earlier, but as they are the most recent news at this court, I have thought it right to report them.

London, the 1st July, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

July 1.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**340.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Since my last despatch the making of the Spanish marriage and the exclusion of the French one are constantly more disseminated among the people and some of the Court, with so many unfounded details, that it would only tire your Excellencies to report them. I wished, however, to investigate the matter and have learned from *M. Levino, who wrote the instructions for Lord Hay*, a man of affairs, that they certainly contain an article to treat of the marriage with the princess, and that this will be one of the principal affairs which he has to do in France, and whatever they may say the affairs with Spain are not so advanced, and they involve much greater difficulties than those of France, although these have their share, and the rumours to the contrary current in the city are



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spread by the Catholics, as they easily believe what they want to. The Spanish ambassador disseminates the same, and says that this week he has received the pope's bull for the dispensation of the marriage.

On Sunday they resolved in the Council to have the coronation of the prince, and give him the title of Wales for Michaelmas next, at which time his court will be formed like that of the dead prince. It is also known that owing to his delicate constitution he must wait at least two or three years before he takes a wife, and so there is no hurry, and possibly much time will be spent in continual negotiations.

The same Sunday the king's Attorney General was appointed Lord Chancellor,\* the old Lord Chancellor being made President of the Council and an earl, a dignity highly valued by him, as he is an old man, and it will descend to his children.

The king is very angry with the Chief Justice Coke, who is also hated by all the nobility and for some injustice committed by him, especially against Somerset. It is thought he will receive some penalty; they threaten him with a fine, as he has a large capital and 60,000 crowns income.†

The earl and countess of Somerset will not lose their lives, and perhaps they will have some better fortune than to remain for ever in the Tower. Upon their affairs an anonymous letter has reached the king from one who in some sort makes reproach of the excessive greatness and sudden fall of Somerset, adding that it has happened in order to satisfy the earl of Arundel, head of the Catholics, the earl of Pembroke, head of the Puritans, and the earl of Southampton (*Sonditon*), head of the malcontents.

Sir [Robert] Car, the prince's tutor, has been immediately imprisoned, as they suspected that he was the author, owing to his relationship to Somerset; but on his innocence being at once established, he was set free, and they have sent to Scotland to imprison a Scotchman who is suspected.‡

Yesterday morning the king came to London and sat in the Council of the Star Chamber, where he had never been. There he stated publicly how much he desired that justice should be done, saying something about his authority, as he is greatly displeased because at the present time there is a general discussion among the lawyers and the people as to whether the king can do such a thing or no, and in thus discussing his duties to the laws they surpass the due limits of respect.§

\* Francis Bacon. Lionello, however, is mistaken. These appointments were discussed, but not made. Ellesmere refused to part with the seals. The Sunday referred to appears to be June 19th, not June 26th as might be supposed, as on the former date Bacon was actually sworn of the Privy Council (Birch: *Court and Times of James I.*, i. p. 412); he did not become Chancellor until 1618. Ellesmere was created Viscount Brackley on Nov. 6, 1616 (*Cul. State Papers, Domestic*, 1611-8, p. 402), but did not rise higher in the peerage, though an earldom was offered to him on his deathbed.

† The charges against Coke are given in *State Papers Domestic* 1611-8, page 376, but there is not a word said about Somerset, but Chamberlain in writing to Carleton says some say he dived too deeply into secrets in the late business. *Ibid.* p. 379.

‡ Sir Robert Kerr, near about the prince, and Gibbe of the bedchamber, were examined last week about conveying away and burning of papers and letters, and were restrained to Sir James Fullerton . . . but I hear Sir Robert Kerr hath found means to be enlarged whatsoever becomes of Gibbe. Chamberlain to Carleton, 30 April, 1616. Birch, *Court and Times of James I.*, i. p. 400.

§ The speech is printed in King James's works. See Gardiner, *Hist. of England*. iii. pp. 20-22.

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Lord Hay has received more money from the king, making a total sum of 60,000 crowns, and 24 crowns a day have been assigned to him. With this he will shortly set out.

In a few days the king and queen will begin their progress through the country. They will continue this until Michaelmas, and the king will leave London a hundred or more miles behind. The other ministers of princes will not follow him, except such ambassadors as are invited for pleasure and those who have to negotiate will be obliged to go and look for him in the kingdom, with such loss of time and other things as your Excellencies may well imagine.

London, the 1st July, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

July 1.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacoi,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives

341. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS of STATE.

Angelo Nodari has returned bringing a register of letters written by Sig. Foscarini to the Senate and also the last written by him jointly with Sig. Barbarigo. They run from 28 August to 20 November. He had them from Sir [William] Smith to whom they were lent by the ambassador of Spain. As I could not keep them long, I took down the beginning and ending of all the letters, with their dates, so that your Excellencies may compare them with the originals. For greater clearness I have taken a sheet out of the book from a place where it will not easily be missed, a half of which I send to your Excellencies, keeping the other half here.

I have been reflecting constantly how I could discover the way in which these copies got abroad. I could think of no better plan than to induce Nodari to speak to the ambassador of Spain and give him to understand that he has other letters written to the republic which are in the possession of other Englishmen, and to take the opportunity to ask him how he obtained the first. Nodari did this but all he obtained was that the ambassador said once, I believe that all these letters extant in London have been brought to my house, to induce me to buy them. At another time, on the same occasion, he said that a Frenchman had given them to his interpreter. This shed some light on the matter, as I thought that a certain M. de la Forêt might be in it, who was very intimate in Sig. Foscarini's house. Being French and visiting all the ambassadors, he was the confident and spy of all of them, and went about with documents and news from one to the other, thus earning a little money. He endeavoured by the same art to introduce himself into the house of Sig. Barbarigo. But he, knowing what the man was, did not allow him too much liberty. By means of a friend I have succeeded in getting a few lines in the handwriting of this Frenchman, together with his signature, and on comparing them with the register of letters they seem to me to be in the same hand. I send it on that your Excellencies may make the same comparison. It only remains then to discover by what means he had access to the authentic register of Sig. Foscarini, and if he took the whole at one time, or week by week. But I do not think he can have done this

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without the assistance of some one of the ambassador's own household. I cannot guess who this might be, but it is my duty to indicate those who had to do with the room where the ambassador slept and kept his papers. They are three, Ascanio who serves Mr. Gray here in England, Lorenzo the courier, who has gone to Venice with Sig. Foscarini, and Ottaviano his valet, who has also gone to Venice with him. The last is the most suspect, as besides being the friend of Forêt he had the keys of the chamber, after seeing the ambassador to bed, and no one entered it before him in the morning, at which time he might commit the crime, perhaps finding the register on the table or having false keys of the safe. However, I know nothing, but I will, if your Excellencies desire it, see what a little money will effect with Forêt, who is a very venal man.

I have promised a reward to Nodari, and I await your Excellencies' instructions. He offers his services to bring information to the ambassadors from time to time of important matters at Court, including the more recondite affairs. As he has access to the houses of the magnates and ambassadors he might really be very useful, but he wants to be officially recognized. I promised him nothing more than to write to your Excellencies.

Sir [William] Smith desires to assure the republic of his devotion, and asks for the 600 crowns lent by him to Sig. Muscornio. He has earnestly requested me to keep this affair secret, as the discovery of it would ruin him. He told me that it was necessary to observe great secrecy, because *the ambassador Wotton is going to Venice to do his utmost to penetrate further into the matter.*

From London, the 1st July, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**342.** The opening and closing words of thirty-two despatches, sent from Antonio Foscarini to the Senate, dated 28 August (two), 4 September (four), 11 September, 12 Sept., 17 Sept. (two), 19 Sept., 24 Sept. (three), 8 Oct. (three), 9 Oct. (three), 1615, and 28 October, 1615.

The opening and closing words of eleven despatches, sent jointly by Antonio Foscarini and Gregorio Barbarigo to the Senate, dated Oct. 16 (two), Oct. 23, Oct. 30 (two), Nov. 7 (two), Nov. 13 (two), Nov. 20 (two).\*

[*Italian.*]

July 3.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**343.** OTTAVIO BON and PIERO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The English ambassador here, stimulated by new commissions in favour of our affair, and by the friendly feeling which he has always displayed towards the republic, continues to support our requests with Villeroy and others with whom he may happen to speak, and always informs me of everything in confidence. Your Serenity should inform the king of this, that he may know he is

\* Of the letters referred to those in the first paragraph are contained in the preceding volume of this Calendar, pp. 570-3, and at pp. 3-6, 10-2, 16-9, 22-7, 31-4, 37-9, 50 above, and those in the second paragraph at pp. 43-5, 48-50, 51-3, 57-9, 60-2, 64-6 above.

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well served. He told us that this extraordinary ambassador, who is daily expected at court, would have the same commissions. We will not fail to pass the necessary offices of confidence and thanks with him, so that he may display the greater zeal in the service of your Serenity.

Paris (*Praga*), the 3rd July, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

July 3.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**344.** OTTAVIO BON and PIERO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

From the manner with which these ministers deal with us we can see that they simply wish to gain time by delay. This is what the English ambassador told us, that he discovered from one of them that they hope that the differences between your Serenity and the archduke will be settled in the meantime, and then you will no longer need the pass. If there is no settlement, they propose to intervene.

Paris, the 3rd July, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

July 3.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**345.** PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Nuncio has been to see me and expressed the sorrow of his Holiness at the continuance of the quarrel between the republic and the Archduke Ferdinand. He also spoke of the difficulty of arranging an accommodation between the Spaniards and the duke of Savoy. The French ambassador told me that the ministers here have asked him to write to his king to ask that M. de Bethune, who is going to Italy to arrange the differences between the Spaniards and the duke of Savoy, should also intervene to settle those between the republic and the archduke.

The secretary of England was most gratified at the communications which I made to him on behalf of your Serenity. He told me that the duke of Lerma desired peace; that the Governor of Milan inclined to a rupture, and never wrote a letter without asking for men and money. He has gone so far that a few days ago he ventured to write to the king, asking him to send money or provide a successor. He told me that the principal ministers seem to esteem the republic, and are rather inclined to favour it, but those who have had governments in Italy, and especially those who have been ambassadors at Venice, are strongly opposed.

Madrid, the 3rd July, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

July 7.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**346.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Yesterday morning the ordinary courier brought me two letters from your Serenity, one of the 10th June, relating the prudent action of the ambassador Contarini at Rome, with respect

1616.

to the Cardinal de' Medici, of which I shall speak with the more advantage, as the affair has increased the reputation of the republic in the face of the world. The same letter contains the deposition of Vincenzo Monte of Fermo, with particulars of the Uscochi, which I shall use for information. The other letter is of the 17th June and contains various expositions of ambassadors, with the replies of the Senate, from which I may gather particulars about the state of affairs with the archduke. Whenever I can succeed in seeing the Secretary Winwood I will communicate everything to him *and fulfil the commands of your Excellencies so that His Majesty may receive the information at the earliest moment. I will do the same with M. Caron, ambassador of the States. I hope that in the meantime your Serenity will have received some knowledge of the king's mind from my past dispatches, both from what Winwood has said to me and from what he recently said to the ambassador of Saroy and which I reported last week. There is this much to add, that on Monday the ambassador of Saroy had audience of the king and I tried to learn from him whether His Majesty had spoken of the affairs of the republic. He said, no, although he had tried to introduce a discussion about it. Among other things he said that your Excellencies experienced a difficulty in collecting troops, because you were surrounded by hostile Princes, such as the Austrians, the State of Milan, and that the pope himself and the Grisons, at the instigation of the Spaniards, would not grant any facilities. But His Majesty evaded the subject and began to discuss something else. On another occasion at the same audience the ambassador remarked that His Majesty had at heart the affairs of Italy and was bound to protect the duke, his master, by the promise he had made, and he was under the same obligation towards the republic by reason of his interests, and said how harmful to Italy any misfortune to the republic, which God forbid, would be, and consequently to many of the Princes of Europe. To this the king replied that he had made representations, had written and had issued instructions to his ambassadors, and this was all that he could get out of His Majesty. In the interests of the duke of Saroy, in whose name he had said these things to the king, he had also seen Winwood during the past week, but obtained nothing except the above and general expressions about wishing to do, but wishing first to see the results of the negotiations of Bethune. From all this your Excellencies will easily understand what is taking place, and the great need for the public service that a minister of worth and authority be sent here as soon as possible.*

The Spanish ambassador has told some confidant of his that he had letters from the Governor of Milan, informing him among other things that the Spanish army will not remain under his command in future, as it did under Don Juan of Mendoza, but that it was his intention to take two or three places and afterwards to open negotiations, not stating, however, what places he had an eye upon, or to what power they belonged. Sig. Pompilio Cataneo has the same news from another source. He is a man who is here for news and who writes generally to the Grand Duke of Florence, receiving replies, and possibly he obtained it from that quarter.

I hear that some soldiers of the States have taken the field with some pieces of artillery, but they have not done anything. The

1616.

report about the 4,000 Walloons is dying away, who were said to be for Italy, and no other provision is heard of in those parts.

The king gave orders that the gentleman be sent for who was sent here by the Prince of Saxony to receive his advice about going to serve the republic. He gave him letters of recommendation to your Serenity and praised his design. The gentleman told me that the Prince will go privately to Venice to offer his services.

His Majesty began his progress two days ago. It is true that he will remain for some time in this neighbourhood, and especially at Windsor, 20 miles away, the place to confer the order of the Garter, which His Majesty will give to the three knights last created.

London, the 7th July, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

July 7.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**347.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

Encloses sheet with the signature of Sir [William] Smith.

From London, the 7th July, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

July 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**348.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.

Sir Henry Wotton, the new English ambassador, has arrived here and has been in the Cabinet. We enclose a copy of his exposition. We also send you letters for His Majesty with a copy, representing to him our esteem for Sir Henry Wotton, whom we know so well.

With regard to the Ambassador Barbarigo you will tell His Majesty that our sorrow at his loss is increased by the knowledge of His Majesty's grief. You will say that Antonio Donato, ambassador in Savoy, has already been chosen to take his place.

We have your three letters of the 16th ult. We praise your prudence, especially in reply to the Secretary Winwood, about the league and other matters. You will employ the same course if the matter is broached again. Nothing important has happened in Friuli. But in Istria the Proveditore General Barbaro makes progress daily and raids the enemy's country. In the State of Milan the Spaniards never cease arming. They are expecting levies from Germany and are raising troops in Naples, also for Milan. They are asking for levies of horse and foot from the Princes of Italy and have given orders to obtain men in the Grisons and Switzerland, under the pretext of employing them against the Turks. We are doing everything for our necessary defence while the Spaniards and the archduke are so inclined for war, while we are making proposals for a suspension of arms at the Imperial Court and elsewhere, without any hope of success.

We have made new provision for the duke of Savoy beside the French troops and the money, by a further grant of money, in order to cement the union of the republic with the friendly powers. No good results appear as yet from the negotiations of M. de Bethune; but none can be expected, as he only proposed to disarm the duke of Savoy while leaving the Spaniards armed. The duke, however, is

1616.

determined not to disarm on any account unless the Spaniards do so completely. Bethune will leave for Milan without knowing what to do and with no hope of doing anything useful.

Ayes 129.

Noes 1.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

July 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

### 349. To the KING OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Your Majesty's singular friendship for the republic receives fresh confirmation by the appointment of Sir Henry Wotton, who is well known and valued by us. We especially thank your Majesty for your feeling remarks upon the death of the Ambassador Barbarigo and for your favour towards his sons. We have chosen Antonio Donato to take his place. Meanwhile we beg you to receive the officers of Giovanni Battista Lionello in our name.

Ayes 129.

Noes 1.

Neutral 1.

This letter was sent in Latin by order of the Senate.

[*Italian.*]

July 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

### 350. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

The letters of the Proveditore General Barbaro inform us that his men have wasted the country of San Piero di Selve and a part of Zemino, inflicting some loss, and carrying off some booty. Our troops have also ravaged the Valle di Servola. There is nothing of moment from Friuli. The enemy have occupied the port of Fara, abandoned by us.

There have been some disputes between the Italians and Albanians in our army, but they were easily appeased. Six or eight men were killed and Antonio Trevisan, brother of the Proveditore of Candia.

This is for information and to use as you see fit.

The like to Rome, France, Spain, Savoy, Milan, Naples, Florence, Mantua, Zurich, the Hague.

Ayes 160.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

July 9.  
Collegio  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives

351. SIR HENRY WOTTON, Ambassador of England, came into the Cabinet and said :

I have a command of His Majesty to execute, but I will wait two or three days, as I am in domestic trouble. One of my gentlemen, who was very dear to me, has died, and three others of my house are sick. I have come now to perform two duties, to thank your Serenity for having chosen an admirably qualified person to treat with Lord Dingwall (*Dinquel*), who is very unassuming and modest.

1616.

in his outward bearing, but who may be called the first soldier of England. He is very popular with both English and Scots, and is accustomed to lead English, Scotch and Irish troops. Some statements current in the Piazza annoy me, that the English are distant. We now have 500 soldiers in the island . . . last acquired towards the East Indies. We have three colonies in Virginia, and 400 to 500 infantry are maintained in the Moluccas. These places may be called distant, yet they are reached. But Venice cannot be called distant, as we border the republic by sea as the king of Spain does by land. I need say no more about the baron, as he knows his own business quite well. I need only add that the king will confirm what he agrees to.

I have another office to perform, which is of such great delicacy, that I blush to speak of it. When the Ambassador Foscari left, whom I find here imprisoned, I know not for what cause (a fact that will grieve His Majesty, who loved him and considered him a good servant of the republic), the Secretary Rizzardo was allowed to go without receiving the smallest present. I may say that this happened by a pure oversight, and is entirely contrary to the character of His Majesty, who thought that he would stay on with the Ambassador Barbarigo, as he had not long since arrived. Finding that he had gone, His Majesty commanded me to make good this omission in favour of a servant of the republic, who always comported himself well at the court. I sent for the Secretary as soon as I arrived here, but he refused to receive anything, because, being a minister here, he was not allowed to. I ask your Serenity for leave to offer this small sign, the usual token of His Majesty's satisfaction.

The doge replied regretting the ambassador's domestic troubles. The Savio della Scrittura had been appointed to treat with Lord Dingwall. As regards the Ambassador Foscari, they do not remember the particulars.

The Signory will consider the matter of the Secretary Rizzardo. After the ambassador had made a reverence, he departed.

[Italian.]

July 9.  
Senato,  
Terra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**352.** That in conformity with the wishes of the king of Great Britain, expressed by his ambassador, Giovanni Rizzardo, formerly secretary at that court, shall have leave to receive the usual gift. The Cabinet shall make this known to the ambassador.

Ayes 150.

Noes 0.

Neutral 3.

In the Cabinet: Ayes 20.

Noes 1.

Neutral 1.

[Italian.]

July 12.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**353.** PIETRO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The secretary of England informed me that a very important minister, a member of the Council of State, had told him that they had heard from me about the claims of your Serenity and thought them*



1616.

*quite just and reasonable, but the decision rested absolutely with the king who inclined more to one side than the other. The minister added that the affair of Venice was so bound up with and dependent upon that of Savoy that the one could not be settled without the other.*

Madrid, the 12th July, 1616.

[*Italian ; deciphered.*]

July 13.  
Consiglio di X.  
Parti.  
Secreta.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**354.** That to obtain information how letters written by an ambassador of the republic to the Senate came into the hands of the ambassador of an alien Prince resident with another great Prince, to whom our said ambassador is accredited, the Inquisitors of State may promise to pay up to 500 ducats at one payment only to the person who has undertaken to show the letters, if he keeps his word in the matter. The money to be paid by the Chamberlain of this Council.

Ayes 13.  
Noes 0.  
Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

July 14.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**355.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

With the departure of His Majesty from London, the Secretary Winwood has been so taken up with continual journeys that for four days since my last despatch I was not able to see him to fulfil the commands of your Serenity's letters of the 17th June. On the fifth day arrived the other letters of your Excellencies of the 22nd and 23rd, with instructions to tell His Majesty of the election of the Ambassador Donato for this charge. I thought good to go and find the king, and tell him everything. Accordingly, I despatched the interpreter to Oatlands, 17 miles from London, where His Majesty was, as I knew he would not like any minister of a prince to go to find him without leave, and acquaint him with my desire to kiss his hands. His Majesty sent word that he was moving to Windsor on the following day, where he would spend the whole of Monday, when he would be so occupied that he would have no time, but on Tuesday he would return to London, and would then send for me. I had to be satisfied with this reply, and I am awaiting the appointed day. I believe that the ambassador of Savoy will have to do the same, as a courier reached him yesterday from Piedmont, who came in six days, and he sent to ask for an audience, though with little hope of obtaining it before the king's return to London; he will stop there four or five days, and then the progress will begin.

The principal cause for the sending of this courier from Savoy is the duke's suspicion that M. de Bethune has written to France advising His Most Christian Majesty to approach the king of England, so that both together may request His Highness not to arm, not to be suspicious of the State of Milan, but to live secure under their promise that the Spaniards will never attack him. For this reason His Highness directs his ambassador resident here

1616.

to beg His Majesty to pay no attention to these offices of the French, and not to decide to make such a demand, but conformably to his great courage and the authority of his power, to insist upon the carrying out of the treaty of Asti, that this alone is the true remedy for pacifying Italy and removing the suspicions of the Princes of that province.

I do not know whether such proposals have actually been made to the king on the part of the French, as it is many days since the Most Christian Ambassador has been to audience, and although there is some suspicion of an individual, a brother of the Bishop of Paris, who recently came from France and spent some time in audience of His Majesty, yet as the ambassador did not go, it is not credible that he dealt with anything of moment.

Besides this the duke tells the king of all the negotiations with Lesdiguières and Bethune up to the present. He says that they advised him to arm, so that he might not trust the Spaniards, especially as they are increasing their forces so greatly and are collecting on his frontiers. I will try and obtain particulars of the king's reply to this office, and send word.

On Monday the king sent for M. Caron, the Dutch ambassador, and made strong representations to him to induce his masters to decide what he and the Most Christian King so much desire upon the restitution of Cleves and removing their names from the treaty of Santen. The ambassador replied with the reasons given before why his masters could not take this decision, and added that he begged His Majesty to excuse him, that he could not write any more about this to Holland as he was perfectly certain that it would be useless and would displease his masters. With this he departed, leaving the king very angry.

I have tried to learn whether His Majesty said anything to him about the affairs of Italy, either upon the interests of your Serenity or of the duke of Savoy, and I am assured that he did not.

Some damage by French and Spanish pirates being daily reported in the seas of Scotland they are putting in order three royal ships, and sending them to those parts to remedy the evil by exterminating those men.

I have imparted to the sons of Barbarigo what your Excellencies commanded me to tell them. It has greatly encouraged them, and they desire humbly to return thanks. They will leave London in four days, after first paying their respects to their Majesties, the Prince, the ambassadors and the magnates. At their departure they will enjoy every possible facility, such being the king's will and command. They will take the route through France as directed, and they have so arranged their affairs that they hope, with God's help, to reach their native land after a pleasant journey.

London, the 14th July, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

July 14.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

356. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I am much gratified that your Excellencies have expressed your satisfaction with what I have done hitherto, and with the honour conferred by the command to continue to serve until the arrival of

1616.

the Most Excellent Donato. I assure you that I will use every diligence in the service. I also thank you for the provision of money which shall be employed in your service. I have certainly suffered great inconvenience in moving my house in England, as I have been forced to buy everything, especially as I have been serving seven years out of Venice with continual travelling and at various courts, so that I have exhausted myself and my poor house, which is now in a sad state owing to the death of my mother, the loss of property and many other accidents in my absence. For the same reason of absence I have not been able to share with others of the chancery in those charges which have been dispensed and God knows if I shall ever be able to aspire to have a more worthy opportunity of serving your Excellencies. For the same reasons I have been obliged to abandon the office of decipherer to the Council of Ten, with a salary of 10 ducats a month. Two years ago I begged you for an increase of salary, but I have not been able to obtain it; however, I beg you to grant me a yearly assignment of money from the Magistracy of the Razon Nuove; but in any case I shall continue to serve with devotion without any regard for myself.

London, the 14th July, 1616.

[Italian.]

July 14.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**357.** GIOVANNI FRANCESCO BARBARIGO, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Returns thanks for the grant of 2,000 crowns.

London, the 14th July, 1616.

[Italian.]

July 14.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**358.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Ambassador Barbarigo paid for letters from Antwerp, London, and other places before his death. I have also used the 150 ducats assigned to me to pay for couriers and letters. I will keep a separate account of this and send it to your Excellencies.

London, the 14th July, 1616.

[Italian.]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**359.** Money paid for letters after the death of the Ambassador Gregorio Barbarigo.

|          |                                                                            | £                    | s. | d. |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----|----|
| 15 June. | Letter from the Hague - - -                                                | 0                    | 1  | 0  |
| 19 „     | Letter of France - - -                                                     | 0                    | 0  | 8  |
| 12 July. | For three months' account to Sig. Quester,<br>postmaster of London - - -   | 11                   | 10 | 3  |
|          | For six months' account to Sig. Zolanz,<br>postmaster of Antwerp - - -     | 38                   | 18 | 0  |
|          | Cash to the carriers of letters, who come<br>every week to take them - - - | 0                    | 10 | 0  |
|          |                                                                            | <hr/> 50 19 11 <hr/> |    |    |

£50 19s. 11d. equal 207 ducats at the present rate of exchange.

[Italian.]

1616.  
Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

### 360. Account of the Postmaster Quester.

|    |        |                                                                |   |   | £ | s. | d.   |
|----|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|----|------|
| 17 | April. | Letter of Antwerp                                              | - | - | - | 0  | 10 0 |
| 21 | "      | Letter of Holland                                              | - | - | - | 0  | 8 0  |
| 24 | "      | Letter of Antwerp                                              | - | - | - | 0  | 16 0 |
| 26 | "      | Letter of Paris                                                | - | - | - | 0  | 4 0  |
| 1  | May    | Letter of Antwerp                                              | - | - | - | 0  | 19 6 |
| 1  | "      | Letter of Paris                                                | - | - | - | 0  | 4 6  |
| 1  | "      | Letter of Paris                                                | - | - | - | 0  | 1 6  |
| 1  | "      | Letter of Antwerp                                              | - | - | - | 0  | 8 6  |
| 15 | "      | Letter of Paris                                                | - | - | - | 0  | 2 6  |
| 16 | "      | Letter of Antwerp                                              | - | - | - | 1  | 1 6  |
| 18 | "      | For sending a large packet after the post<br>by way of Zeeland | - | - | - | 1  | 0 0  |
| 21 | "      | Letter of Paris                                                | - | - | - | 0  | 1 6  |
| 23 | "      | Letter of Antwerp                                              | - | - | - | 0  | 17 3 |
| 29 | "      | Letter of Paris                                                | - | - | - | 0  | 4 6  |
| 30 | "      | Letter of Antwerp                                              | - | - | - | 0  | 8 6  |
| 5  | June.  | Letter of Paris                                                | - | - | - | 0  | 0 9  |
| 5  | "      | Letter of Antwerp                                              | - | - | - | 0  | 19 6 |
| 12 | "      | Letter of Paris                                                | - | - | - | 0  | 4 0  |
| 13 | "      | Letter of Antwerp                                              | - | - | - | 0  | 14 0 |
| 14 | "      | Letter of Holland                                              | - | - | - | 0  | 0 6  |
| 18 | "      | Letter of Paris                                                | - | - | - | 0  | 4 6  |
| 19 | "      | Letter of Antwerp                                              | - | - | - | 0  | 10 6 |
| 25 | "      | Letter of Paris                                                | - | - | - | 0  | 3 6  |
| 26 | "      | Letter of Antwerp                                              | - | - | - | 1  | 5 3  |
|    |        |                                                                |   |   |   | 11 | 10 3 |

Account rendered by Matthew de Quester, postmaster of London,  
with form of receipt signed by him.

[French.]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

### 361. Account of Antwerp to the Ambassador Gregorio Barbarigo.

|    |      |                           |   |   | s. | d.    |
|----|------|---------------------------|---|---|----|-------|
| 1  | Jan. | From London               | - | - | -  | 36 8  |
| 1  | "    | For Dover of Sig. Foscari | - | - | -  | 5 0   |
| 2  | "    | For Italy                 | - | - | -  | 32 2  |
| 2  | "    | For Foscari for Italy     | - | - | -  | 4 8   |
| 5  | "    | Of Venice                 | - | - | -  | 23 4  |
| 8  | "    | Of London                 | - | - | -  | 20 10 |
| 9  | "    | For Italy                 | - | - | -  | 19 8  |
| 12 | "    | From Italy                | - | - | -  | 12 6  |
| 15 | "    | From London               | - | - | -  | 30 0  |
| 16 | "    | For Italy                 | - | - | -  | 28 4  |
| 16 | "    | For Prague                | - | - | -  | 0 10  |
| 20 | "    | From Italy                | - | - | -  | 13 4  |
| 28 | "    | From Italy                | - | - | -  | 17 2  |
| 28 | "    | From Germany              | - | - | -  | 0 10  |
| 29 | "    | From London               | - | - | -  | 33 4  |
| 30 | "    | For Italy                 | - | - | -  | 31 8  |

1616.

|    |        |                                                                               |   |   |   |   | s. | d. |
|----|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|
| 3  | Feb.   | From Italy                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 18 | 0  |
| 5  | "      | From London                                                                   | - | - | - | - | 18 | 0  |
| 6  | "      | For Italy                                                                     | - | - | - | - | 17 | 2  |
| 10 | "      | From Venice                                                                   | - | - | - | - | 20 | 0  |
| 16 | "      | From London                                                                   | - | - | - | - | 21 | 8  |
| 17 | "      | From Venice                                                                   | - | - | - | - | 28 | 4  |
| 20 | "      | For Italy                                                                     | - | - | - | - | 20 | 10 |
| 24 | "      | From Venice                                                                   | - | - | - | - | 10 | 6  |
| 24 | "      | From Germany                                                                  | - | - | - | - | 0  | 10 |
| 25 | "      | From Spain                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 1  | 8  |
| 28 | "      | From London                                                                   | - | - | - | - | 89 | 2  |
| 2  | March. | From Italy                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 18 | 6  |
| 4  | "      | From London                                                                   | - | - | - | - | 28 | 4  |
| 5  | "      | For Italy                                                                     | - | - | - | - | 67 | 6  |
| 9  | "      | From Italy                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 55 | 6  |
| 9  | "      | From Germany                                                                  | - | - | - | - | 0  | 10 |
| 16 | "      | From Italy                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 22 | 8  |
| 22 | "      | From Italy                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 18 | 4  |
| 25 | "      | From London                                                                   | - | - | - | - | 21 | 4  |
| 26 | "      | For Italy                                                                     | - | - | - | - | 20 | 6  |
| 29 | "      | From Italy                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 27 | 6  |
| 1  | April. | From London                                                                   | - | - | - | - | 12 | 2  |
| 2  | "      | For Italy                                                                     | - | - | - | - | 11 | 8  |
| 5  | "      | From Italy                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 12 | 8  |
| 8  | "      | From London                                                                   | - | - | - | - | 18 | 4  |
| 9  | "      | For Italy of the Secretary sent to the<br>Hague                               | - | - | - | - | 21 | 8  |
| 12 | "      | From Italy                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 30 | 10 |
| 12 | "      | From Germany                                                                  | - | - | - | - | 0  | 10 |
| 16 | "      | For Italy of his Secretary from the Hague                                     | - | - | - | - | 9  | 2  |
| 20 | "      | From Italy                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 15 | 0  |
| 23 | "      | For Italy from the Hague                                                      | - | - | - | - | 11 | 4  |
| 26 | "      | From Italy                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 23 | 10 |
| 26 | "      | From Germany                                                                  | - | - | - | - | 0  | 10 |
| 29 | "      | From London                                                                   | - | - | - | - | 12 | 2  |
| 30 | "      | For Italy, including a packet from his<br>Secretary sent from Dort in Holland | - | - | - | - | 18 | 10 |
| 3  | May.   | From Italy                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 29 | 8  |
| 10 | "      | From Italy                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 12 | 6  |
| 10 | "      | From Germany                                                                  | - | - | - | - | 0  | 10 |
| 13 | "      | From London                                                                   | - | - | - | - | 27 | 6  |
| 14 | "      | For Italy                                                                     | - | - | - | - | 26 | 8  |
| 17 | "      | From Italy                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 33 | 10 |
| 19 | "      | From London                                                                   | - | - | - | - | 24 | 8  |
| 21 | "      | For Italy                                                                     | - | - | - | - | 23 | 10 |
| 24 | "      | From Italy                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 26 | 0  |
| 24 | "      | From Germany                                                                  | - | - | - | - | 0  | 10 |
| 26 | "      | From London                                                                   | - | - | - | - | 4  | 2  |
| 28 | "      | For Italy                                                                     | - | - | - | - | 3  | 10 |
| 31 | "      | From Italy                                                                    | - | - | - | - | 12 | 6  |
| 3  | June.  | From Zeeland                                                                  | - | - | - | - | 2  | 6  |
| 4  | "      | For Italy                                                                     | - | - | - | - | 81 | 4  |

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|         |                              |   |   |   |   |   | <i>s. d.</i>         |
|---------|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------|
| 6 June. | From Spain                   | - | - | - | - | - | 1 4                  |
| 7 „     | From Italy                   | - | - | - | - | - | 18 4                 |
|         | By way of Germany and Mantua | - | - | - | - | - | 7 10                 |
| 10 „    | From London                  | - | - | - | - | - | 20 6                 |
| 11 „    | For Italy                    | - | - | - | - | - | 19 8                 |
| 14 „    | From Italy                   | - | - | - | - | - | 21 8                 |
|         |                              |   |   |   |   |   | <hr/> 1,321 10 <hr/> |

Total 66*l.* 1*s.* 10*d.*, gross (*di grosse*) 38*l.* 18*s.*

[*Italian.*]

July 14.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**362.** GIOVANNI. BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

In accordance with instructions in your letters of the 22nd, I have in my custody all the minutes, letters and documents which passed between your Magistracy and the Ambassador Barbarigo, and I will guard them with the most scrupulous secrecy.

From London, the 14th July, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

July 15.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Lettere agli  
Ambasciatori  
d' Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**363.** The INQUISITORS of STATE to GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England.

With regard to the letters written by Foscarini and the Ambassador Barbarigo said to be in the hands of the ambassador of Spain and of Sir [William] Smith, it will be well to have copies, which Angelo dei Nodari has promised to bring. But it is more important to learn who gave them to Smith, and how those in the hands of the ambassador of Spain, and bought by him at a great price, were obtained. For this all diligence will be necessary. We give you power to promise that Smith shall be paid by Muscorio if the debt can be clearly proved, and that Angelo shall be rewarded if the letters can be obtained and also the further particulars. We leave the amount of the reward to your prudence, but you must not exceed the sum of 400 ducats. We shall await your letters, which must be in cipher for greater security.

[*Italian.*]

July 16.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**364.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary destined to Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have had a conversation with Colonel Schomberg. He said that matters were proceeding in Italy as in Germany, and as was attempted in Juliers. This was all the work of the Spaniards. It would be prudent for all the interested powers, such as the Princes of the Union, the republic, the States of Holland and perhaps the king of Great Britain to have a certain understanding together, and unite at least for the common defence.

Hulzonen, the 16th July, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

1616.

July 16.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**365.** Lord Dingwall, a Scot, having arrived in this city and having offered his services to the republic, and having been recommended by letters of the king of England and by the two last expositions made by the ambassador of that crown, that the Savii of the Cabinet hear his pretensions and negotiate with him.

Ayes 124.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

July 20.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**366.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in England.

Your letters of the 1st inst. have reached us to-day, bringing word of the report that the republic has sent money to Savoy to induce him to break with Milan. This is very far from the truth, and you must endeavour to remove that suspicion. Our intention was entirely different, namely, to facilitate peace and liberty, in view of the fact that the Spaniards were increasing their armaments instead of disarming, as bound by the treaty of Asti. This made it necessary to help the duke, as we did before in the case of Mantua, and as we have always been accustomed to do. The republic has always acted in the interests of peace and a good intelligence among friends, without any particular bond. This information will serve as a basis for all discussions upon the matter.

Ayes 107.

Noes 9.

Neutral 30.

[*Italian.*]

July 20.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**367.** That the AMBASSADOR OF ENGLAND and LORD DINGWALL be summoned to the Cabinet and the following read to them :

We have been much gratified by the disposition of the baron towards the republic, accompanied by the letter of His Majesty and the testimony of the ambassador. We fully recognise the great qualities of the baron and we thank him for his disposition towards us and we should like to accept his offers; but we understand that he will only undertake to serve with a levy of a large number of troops. We shall preserve a grateful memory of his offer to make use of it when occasion serves. We also beg your Excellency to thank His Majesty, as we shall instruct our Secretary Lionello to do.

Ayes 107.

Noes 9.

Neutral 30.

[*Italian.*]

July 20.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**368.** To the KING of GREAT BRITAIN.

The readiness of your Majesty to grant leave to Lord Dingwall to come here and offer his services shows your continued care for the interest of the republic. We also recognise his own zeal in taking so long a journey for this purpose. We return hearty thanks

1616.

for all this, which will be expressed by our Secretary Lionello. We shall remember the offer, to make use of it when occasion serves.

Ayes 107.

Noes 9.

Neutral 80.

[*Italian.*]

July 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**369.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in England.

Lord Dingwall, a Scot, was introduced into the Cabinet on the 29th ult. by Sir Henry Wotton, with the exposition of which we enclose a copy. We opened negotiations, intending to give him a formal command, according to the use of the republic with other persons of quality. However, he let it be known that he would not bind himself to serve unless he had under his command 6,000 foot of his own countrymen. The republic, accordingly, not being at present in need of this levy, decided to make a courteous reply, thanking him in the presence of the ambassador, and to present him with a gold chain worth 2,000 crowns as a sign of honour and esteem. We send this for information. We enclose letters for the king, which you will present, thanking him in our name for granting permission for the baron to come, with other friendly expressions. If you speak to the Secretary Winwood upon the matter, you will do so more exactly so that he may be well informed and impressed. For your further information we have to inform you that the baron would accept no responsibility for bringing his own men, except to fetch them to the shores of England for disembarkation, and to free himself from all responsibility of the voyage. This point outweighed all other advantages. The baron has given us to understand that he was sent here by the Ambassadors Foscari and Barbarigo, by mutual arrangement. We see, however, from the letter which he brought us from the Ambassador Barbarigo, of which we send a copy, that he was led by his own inclinations to come here and offer his services.

Ayes 107.

Noes 9.

Neutral 80.

[*Italian.*]

July 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**370.** That out of consideration of the inconveniences undergone, and the long journey taken by Lord Dingwall, a Scot, who came here to offer his services to the republic, all honour be shown to him at his departure, and that 2,000 crowns be expended upon a gold chain to be presented to him with such ceremony as shall seem good to the Cabinet, to show our esteem for him.

Ayes 132.

Noes 10.

Neutral 27.

Second vote, Ayes 137.

Noes 8.

Neutral 26.

In the Cabinet, Ayes 19.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]



1616.

July 21.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**371. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.**

The archducal forces have recently done some harm in S. Antonio in Istria, but our troops have retaliated upon Sabresez and Rezimian, burning 106 houses and carrying off some booty after a sharp skirmish, without any loss on our side. They made a similar raid on the following day, burning a great quantity of hay intended principally for the enemy's horses. In Friuli the enemy sometimes leave their posts, but never go far and offer no chance of skirmishes. Our troops continue to secure their position at Santa Maria de Foiano, and they hold that of Sagra, hard by. We send this for information.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Savoy, Florence, Mantua, Naples, Milan, the Hague, Zurich.

Ayes 132.

Noes 0.

Nentral 0.

[Italian.]

July 21.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**372. PIETRO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The secretary of England told me that he had recently asked the king and his ministers, in the name of his master, for the execution of the treaty of Asti. He told me they had given him the following reply: The Marquis of Ynoyosa in that treaty had not only exceeded the authority which he possessed but had disobeyed express orders from His Majesty. However, the king was disposed to carry out that treaty and to honour the word of his minister even though it might be to the detriment of all his dominions.

Madrid, the 21st July, 1616.

[Italian.]

July 21.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**373. PIETRO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The Count of Bucquoi has recently left for Flanders. He is said to have induced His Majesty to declare that he will make war on the States if, in the reply which they are to give to the ambassador of the king of England, they do not agree to restore Juliers, with which place they can not only stop the assistance which Flanders generally receives from the Archbishopric of Cologne, but also those which the king sends by Germany from the state of Milan.

The forty captains for the Indies have received orders to make up their companies, which, when complete, will number 4,000 men. However, this is being done slowly, and I understand that the money has already been spent.

Madrid, the 21st July, 1616.

[Italian.] -

1616.

July 21.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.

Lettere agli  
Ambasciatori  
d'Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**374. The INQUISITORS OF STATE to GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO  
Venetian Secretary in England.**

The promises to Nodari and Smith will clear the way to discover who gave Foscarini's letters to the person who copied them, and at what time these practices began. It is above all things important to discover from whom the Frenchman, M. de la Forêt, or possibly others, received the letters of Foscarini, of which copies came into the hands of the ambassador of Spain. Angelo dei Nodari, whom you describe as likely to be of use in serious affairs, will be welcomed by the ambassador Donato. You will assure Sir [William] Smith that when we have sufficiently clear information for the recovery of his loan to Muscorno, he will have every reason to be satisfied with us. With regard to the things published by him and the affair of the letters, which have been shown, and in all other matters, his name shall be kept most secret.

[*Italian.*]

July 22.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**375. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in  
England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The king returned to London on Tuesday, and set out again on Wednesday after having arranged audiences for the ambassador of Savoy and myself for yesterday, at Wanstead (*Unsted*) seven miles away. I went there and saw His Majesty, whom I found in a very good humour. We conversed for rather less than half an hour walking up and down in a gallery. I succeeded in fulfilling the instructions sent to me in letters of the 17th and 22nd ult. I first informed him of the choice of the ambassador Donato to serve here. In speaking of his worthiness I said incidentally that he was nephew of the Doge Leonardo Donato of glorious memory. The king seemed highly pleased at this and said smilingly, I am much delighted that he is the nephew of that great man who bore the charge of the republic so well, and who was one of the doges most valued by me in my time. I pray God that the ambassador may have as happy an end as he. I then told him that until the arrival of the ambassador your Excellencies charged me to stay here and serve him and to inform him of what is taking place in Italy, which is certainly extraordinary, and which you wish to be brought to the knowledge of His Majesty so that you may obtain help from his most prudent advice. I told him about the negotiations with the archduke, of the departure of the Marquis Manriquez and of their slight inclination to meet the disposition of your Serenity for peace, of the offices performed in the Cabinet by the Spanish ambassador simply asking for the restitution of the places and only promising a remedy, introducing new distinctions which reduce the matter to nothing. I went on to speak of the attitude of the republic towards these points; I pointed out how much it concerned His Majesty, *his authority and inclination being engaged for the general peace and the advantage of your Serenity, urging him, so far as I was able, to make the declarations and take the action which your Excellencies desire, and using the methods which are usually successful with His Majesty, and which give him considerable gratification, namely by speaking of the great reputation which he has acquired in the world by*

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so many generous resolutions to help his friends, by arranging through his influence, the most serious differences of Europe, and that in this affair of your Serenity a great increase of glory is reserved for him as the report of his goodwill towards the republic will alone suffice to produce effects advantageous to the public peace.

During the course of this speech His Majesty interrupted me frequently, approved of the position of your Serenity, observing that you had always been inclined towards peace and he remembered that during the dispute between Saroy and Mantua, your Serenity had protected Mantua simply in order to prevent the disturbance from spreading further. When subsequently the Spaniards turned against Saroy, your Serenity re-established friendship with the duke to balance matters; that throughout so far as his information served, your Excellencies had always acted straightforwardly. Proposals for an accommodation had been made, and he remembered that the Austrians and Spaniards had already given their promise three times, and had then changed in carrying it out. The decision to abandon Gradisca was especially great, in order to open the way for negotiations, but nevertheless it had not proved successful; he did not know by what right the Spaniards dealt thus with the powers, and he marvelled at it; in this wise he approved of all the acts of your Serenity. He asked me about those of your enemies, and I was about to leave with his declaration that he wished to remain the friend of the republic, and would always act and speak in her favour. However, as the opportunity seemed favourable I endeavoured in thanking him to invite him to make like advances and declarations by the most public means that might seem good to his prudence. He replied, I shall be ready to declare myself to all the world, and with this he went into his bedchamber, as the time had already gone. I also touched upon the good understanding which exists between your Serenity and the duke of Saroy, of the advance of money you are making to him, the action of Bethune and of the sinister offices performed by the French ministers in the Grisons, but I did not go very far into this owing to the shortness of the time, and because I knew that he had heard the greater part of it at that very time from the ambassador of Saroy, who knew what he had to say, and especially because I had begged him on the preceding day to assure His Majesty of the good understanding existing between your Serenity and His Highness and of the help given, and of the satisfaction of His Highness with this. I desired the ambassador to perform this office in order to remove all doubt from the mind of His Majesty, as I reported in my late despatches.

As the disposition of His Majesty at this audience seemed to me to be quite favourable while his words were altogether friendly, I thought it well to lose no time in forwarding the interests of your Serenity as much as possible, especially as I heard that His Majesty had received news that affairs in Flanders may come to a breach, in which event they would pay rather more attention here to the affairs of Italy. Accordingly this morning I went to see the Secretary Winwood, to whom I imparted all that I said in my audience with the king, expressing my great satisfaction at the continued goodwill of His Majesty and at what he said to me in favour of your Serenity, that as I had left His Majesty in this highly favourable disposition, I needed the good offices of the secretary to obtain all the effects desired by the republic, which

1616.

*amounted to those offices, declarations and acts which His Majesty had published to the world at other times during similar troubles of your Excellencies, to your great glory and benefit. After various speeches the secretary recognised that this desire of your Excellencies was very reasonable and he would readily work for its fulfilment. That he would see the king on Sunday and tell him that I had conferred with him and spoken to this effect, so that if His Majesty sees fit, he will procure an open declaration to the world that he accepts the cause of the republic and will be her friend and defender against those who wish to attack her in this cause using the same means as were employed at another time when a like favour was obtained from His Majesty. I will use every effort to obtain what I know to be the desire of your Serenity.*

London, the 22nd July, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

July 22.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**376.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The ambassador of Savoy had audience of the king before me. He left it greatly comforted having obtained from His Majesty more words, offices and promises than he expected. He informed the king of what I wrote that the duke had sent to him by express courier, and urged strongly that His Majesty should not consent to the slightest alterations of the treaty of Asti, notwithstanding any offices which the Spaniards or French might make, but to use his influence for its maintenance, and to stand firm upon what his agent at Turin had publicly declared to be his intention. The king replied with great warmth that he entirely approved of what his agent had said, that he would write and send word that he should continue on the same lines and he begged the duke not to depart one jot from the said treaty but to stand fast to the point that the Spaniards must carry it out punctually and freely. For his own part he is resolved that the forces of the state of Milan must be disbanded and the powers of Italy relieved from disturbance, and if the Spaniards have any other intentions, he himself will make war in company with the others and compel them to do their duty by force. That Lord Hay, who is leaving for France to-day, has orders to declare these intentions of his to the Most Christian King and to speak freely to him; that the Spaniards must fulfil their obligations, to disarm the state of Milan, otherwise he will make war, and he exhorts his Most Christian Majesty to adopt the same policy and make the same representations. He expressed his opinions in many other worthy words, for which the ambassador thanked him warmly, and he will write about it soon to His Highness.*

*The Spanish ambassador is aware that Lord Hay has instructions to negotiate a marriage in France, and has discovered that he is not so far advanced with the matter as was believed and as he made others believe. Accordingly he is making use of every pretext to undermine his reputation. At present he goes about saying that as the king has recently hanged a priest who had escaped from prison,<sup>a</sup> this action has*

<sup>a</sup> The event is referred to in a letter from Chamberlain to Carleton of July 6th o.s. 'There was a seminary priest hanged at Tyburn on Monday that was banished before, and, being taken again, offered to break prison.' Birch: *Court and Times of James I.*, i, p. 418.

1616.

broken off all negotiations with his king, as it shows that England is so hostile to the Catholic religion that such a princess cannot be given to him, and that even if the king, his master, wished to give her, the people of Spain would not permit it, because they would call him a heretic himself. I believe that if all this comes to the king's ears, it will produce a good effect.

The secretary of the Most Christian ambassador has gone to France upon pretext of his own private affairs, but I happen to have heard that he is taking a petition from the ambassador to be recalled from this service, although he has not stayed here a year. The reasons which move him are that as he is the son-in-law of the Chancellor Sillery, he foresees himself involved in the fall of the latter, and he has decided to anticipate his recall by asking leave to return. In addition to this he knows that he is not in favour with the queen of England, and is most hateful to her as the son-in-law of Sillery, and because on a recent occasion she found him out and taxed him with falsehood. But what affects him most of all is being passed over in the marriage negotiations, upon which the king has not said a word to him, but they are negotiated by Lord Hay in France, without his having the smallest share.

The king intended, after Lord Hay had fulfilled his mission in Paris, to send him on to Heidelberg, to settle the differences which have arisen between the princess, his daughter, and the elector, her husband, upon a question of precedence, since the wife, as a king's daughter, wished to have the advantage, which was refused by the Palatine, and some occasion for dispute arose afterwards. But letters have recently reached His Majesty from Amsterdam saying that it is unnecessary for Lord Hay to take this trouble, as the question has been settled by the Electoral Council, who have accorded the superiority to the princess. These things are ill received here, and are spoken of with impatience.\*

With regard to the news that I said His Majesty had received about a probable rupture in Flanders, I have not been able to discover further particulars, but this fear must have some foundation upon the negotiations because with respect to facts there is nothing more than there has been at any time of late.

To-morrow morning the sons of the late Ambassador Barbarigo are leaving London on their way to the sea, to wait for a favourable wind and an opportunity to cross.

Yesterday I received your Serenity's letters of the last day of June with the news of the most recent events in Istria, which I will use as directed.

London, the 22nd July, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

July 23.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

### 377. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

Since the 21st, our troops have raided the borders of Friuli and captured a quantity of booty. The proveditore General in Dalmatia has captured the fortress of Serisa or Carlo Bago, a nest of

\* There is a memorandum about this dispute in Wotton's handwriting, dated from Grand near Heidelberg on 23 April, 1616, o.s. *State Papers, Foreign, Venice.*

1616.

the Uscochi, killing Captain Zuane Scicich, one of the most villainous of the Uscochi of these times. He took the boats there but allowed the others to depart where they pleased with their arms. The Uscochi were constantly issuing from the place to attack our island of Pago, which is opposite. We send this for information.

Ayes 120.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

The like to Rome, Germany, Spain, France, Savoy, Naples, Florence, Milan, Mantua, Zurich, the Hague.

[*Italian.*]

July 27.  
Consiglio  
di X. Parti  
Communi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**378.** That the jewels of the sanctuary and the armoury of this Council be shown to Lord Dingwall, an Englishman, now in this city on his travels.

Ayes 16.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

July 28.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Lettere agli  
Ambasciatori.  
d'Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**379.** The Inquisitors of State resolve to summon Giulio Muscorno before them to acknowledge a debt said to be due to Sir William Smith of London. If he acknowledges it the debt shall be paid without delay. They wish to have Muscorno's word although he confessed the debt some months ago at the instance of the ambassador of England made to the Council of Ten.

[*Italian.*]

Covered by  
the preceding  
Document.

**380.** Giulio Muscorno being summoned before the Inquisitors of State admitted that he had borrowed 600 crowns in London from Sir [William] Smith, which he had not repaid owing to his imprisonment. He had in vain begged the ambassador Foscari to pay his debts. There were several sums due to him which should suffice for the payment.

[*Italian.*]

July 29.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Lettere agli  
Ambasciatori.  
d'Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**381.** The INQUISITORS of STATE to GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England.

Muscorno has acknowledged the debt and we have arranged that he shall make speedy payment. His letters of the 7th inst. contain nothing to throw light upon the question of the public documents. The secretary must use every means to draw further particulars from M. de la Forêt.

[*Italian.*]

July 29.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**382.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Three days ago the ordinary courier brought me two letters of your Serenity of the 8th July, one with news of the most recent events in Istria and Friuli, and the other with copies of the letters of the king

1616.

here and the exposition of the Ambassador Wotton and with instructions to pass the complimentary offices with His Majesty on the arrival of Wotton and for the condolences about the late Barbarigo, and to present the letters of your Serenity in reply. I will do all this next week, not with the king, because now that he has begun his progress and has seen all the ministers of the powers, none of them will go to find him unless for some more than ordinary occurrence, and anyone who did otherwise, besides the difficulty of obtaining access, would cause great prejudice to his own business; but I will see the Secretary Winwood, who will afterwards report to His Majesty in the usual way, and I will give him the letters of your Excellencies. At present the Secretary is away from London with His Majesty, but he will return one of these days, and I will wait to hear from him what His Majesty has decided to do with respect to publishing to the world his declaration, for which, as I wrote, I found that both the king and the secretary were well disposed last week. If they continue to be of the same mind, I shall have reason to hope for speedy results.

I have recently been endeavouring to discover what was the news that the king received about a probable rupture in Flanders. I finally learned that the English agent at Brussels wrote to His Majesty that a courier had come from Spain with news of the return from the Court of the Count of Bucquoi, who brings orders to the archduke and Spinola to lay siege to Juliers. If this be true it will help the affairs of Italy in many ways, especially as many favours would be obtained from His Majesty and the Dutch, owing to the great advantages that they promise themselves from the diversion; but although the agent has written here yet all do not think it so likely to happen for various reasons, and especially because the season is so far advanced.

His Majesty has recently received a further incitement to show himself more ardent in the affairs of Italy, as his ambassador in France writes that if His Majesty will show himself resolute against the Spaniards in making them disarm, he knows for certain that they will yield. The agent of His Majesty at Turin also conducts everything for the advantage of the duke and does his utmost to create a favourable disposition.

M. de Villeroi has written to the French ambassador here that he fears Bethune will do little good for the accommodation of Italy owing to the close understanding between the duke of Savoy and the republic. The same ambassador told me that both these affairs are so interwoven that they cannot be separated and one cannot be settled without the other. I replied that although the questions are two and differ from each other yet they need only one remedy to arrange them, namely the removal of the forces from the state of Milan, as with them would disappear the jealousy and irritation which cause the evil. He agreed that this was true, but it was necessary first to try good means to obtain it, and only have recourse to others if they do not succeed.

As the Spanish ambassador, after the death of the Ambassador Barbarigo, passed some compliment with his sons and with this house, I thought it only right to go and call upon him yesterday.

1616.

I remained in conversation with him upon matters of small importance, except that he asked me how the affairs of the archduke were going on. I replied that I had no very recent news and that His Excellency might know more than I did. He said that he sometimes received letters and he heard sometimes that an accommodation is being made, sometimes that it is not. I said that the disposition of your Serenity had always been the same in all this affair and had never varied one jot. He added: I do not know what will happen. The Emperor is a good man and desires peace; I do not know about the archduke Ferdinand, if he is a soldier, he is the first who has worn glasses. We must believe that the breach continues owing to the machinations of evil ministers. I said that if this was the case, they did ill to disturb the public peace. When I was about to leave the room he said Mr. Secretary, I offer you this house and I hope we may be friends, even if our princes are not, and that we may enjoy cordial relations, since neither of us will betray his master. I could not answer this extraordinary observation, so I took leave and departed.

This Spanish ambassador had audience of the king at Theobalds the day before yesterday, when he was entertained at dinner and taken out hunting. When he asked for this audience ten days ago, he let it be understood that he simply desired it to kiss hands and to say good-bye before the king had gone far away on his progress. I do not really believe that he had any formal business to negotiate, but he will have seized the opportunity of this interview to discuss with His Majesty the affairs of your Serenity, Savoy and Flanders in the way that may be expected from such a minister.

Because some English ships have been detained at Seville on account of customs, and pretended payments, the merchants interested have preferred requests here that Spanish ships may be detained as reprisals, but as there are none here at present they are detaining a Flemish ships, as being a dependant of Spain. The Spanish ambassador is unwilling to speak about the matter in order not to cause greater prejudice to the ship by displaying an interest in it, but the agent of the archduke is negotiating for its release, I do not know what will be the judgment.

I have been to visit M. Caron, the ambassador of Holland, and have executed the commissions of your Serenity with him, begging him to advise his masters of the present state of affairs. By recent letters from the Low Countries I am informed that there are grave suspicions, because the Spaniards have quartered almost all their troops about Juliers and are constructing a bridge between Rheinberg and Wesel, for convenience in crossing. Prince Maurice was going to Emmerich and Rees, and the States had secret and frequent consultations with His Excellency, as it is their custom to do upon important occasions.

An ambassador from Basel has arrived at the Hague to ask for a large debt due by the house of Nassau to his masters for money lent at the beginning of the war to the Prince of Orange, by reason of a regiment of Swiss which he maintained against the duke of Alva in the year 1568. After the ambassador had set forth the whole matter to Prince Maurice, the latter submitted the whole to the States in whose service his house incurred the debt. Hitherto they have



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made no reply to the ambassador and they seem very disinclined to make any payment.

An ecclesiastical minister of the Princess Palatine has arrived here, to take advice upon certain doubts upon religious matters which have disturbed the princess's mind. When they are all satisfied, he will return to Heidelberg.

The prince of England has been introduced to the Council, where he will have his place for the future. The other day the same honour was conferred upon the Earl of Arundel.

London, the 29th July, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

July 29.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disposci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**383.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary destined for Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I came to Sulzbach, the residence of the Palatine Augustus of Neuburg. The Prince Augustus received me with great honour. He said I will not presume to offer advice to your wise senators, but *I will venture to say that I think the States, in order to secure a favourable settlement, would do their utmost to involve the Princes of the Union and the Kings of France and Great Britain, to form a counterpoise to the other side, which consists of the Emperor, Spain and perhaps some other prince, meaning the pope.*

Nürnberg, the 29th July, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Aug. 1.  
Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**384.** The deliberation of the SENATE of the 20th ult. was read to the AMBASSADOR OF ENGLAND and LORD DINGWALL. After conversing aside with the Baron, the Ambassador replied:

The baron has been much honoured by his reception here, of which he will give His Majesty a full account on his return. Owing to his being married he cannot bind himself to continuous residence in this state, and as he treated with the ambassadors for a command of 6,000 infantry he cannot abandon that proposal, yet he remains satisfied with his expedition, and will make the best report of it.

The ambassador went on to say that the late Ambassador Barbarigo, when he, Wotton, was in London, travelled from London to see His Majesty, and give him an account of the troubles caused by the tolerance for 70 or 80 years of the robberies and incursions of those thieves who were fomented secretly and publicly by neighbouring princes. That your Serenity acted solely on the defensive for your own safety. That His Majesty was pleased at this office, and most openly declared himself the friend of the republic, approved the justice of its cause, which may be considered as a common one, because as the civil law says *latro habetur pro hoste* of all not of one alone.

When I left, His Majesty favoured me with credentials to all the princes where I was to pass, especially the Count Palatine, giving me leave to employ his name and authority as I might judge best for the service of your Serenity. I arrived at the palatine court six days after the departure of the Ambassador Gussoni, whose

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prudence and ability spared me the trouble of dealing with many things. I remained there six or eight days. The prince and his councillors came every day to see me, and I may say that they spoke of nothing but the current affairs of your Serenity. Two subjects of discussion occurred which might be useful to this state, the first to approach the Imperial court for the withdrawal of troops; the second to persuade the Grisons to open the pass, as I thought that prince would be a good means to this end, his religion and language being the same as theirs. The Palatine replied in writing that he had already approached the emperor, and he and his allies would be able to effect more at the next diet, and they hoped to do some good with the Grisons. I sent the reply to His Majesty, and I was asked to report it here. The prince expressed great satisfaction with Sig. Gussoni, and the honour done to him by your Serenity by that mission.

I next passed to Savoy, and it is superfluous in me to relate what took place at that court, as you have been fully informed by your able ambassador, who took part, by the wish of His Highness, in all negotiations and meetings.

I now come to the point. His Majesty, as chief of the allied princes, states and republics, which are now called the Union, charged me during the two years that I was in the Low Countries to get them to enter this league. This took place, and His Majesty now hopes to persuade your Serenity to do the same, especially as the States have finally joined with the Hanseatic league, which is a matter of great moment. The point therefore is whether the republic will unite with His Majesty and the princes of the Union for defence and peace at the present juncture. I will speak of the reasons both for and against. To begin with the objections, sincerity demands that I should put them as strongly as possible. Firstly it is said that there is a great difference between the religion of those princes and that practised in this city, and it will give great offence to the pope. I reply that this difference should offend no one as the league is not made for the sake of religion, as the princes are greatly divided among themselves in religion, but simply for defence, not for spiritual but for civil ends.

In the second place it may be said that the princes of the house of Austria will be offended by the league. I reply, *qui expectat nubes, nunquam seminat*, a prince is not bound to neglect his own advantage in order to avoid offending another. The king of Spain, in these marriages, has sought his own advantage, and has decided wisely from his own point of view. The republic can give no just cause of offence by uniting with its friends, as she is known to be surrounded by princes ill disposed to her.

The third objection is that a union with so many princes, republics and states would involve the republic in infinite trouble and constant expense. This is an important consideration, and the one which caused the greatest difficulty with the States. But compensation was found, because they concluded that the Union would be with money or troops, to be arranged under two heads according to whether a party was attacked and invaded by a third, or if, by an injury, he should be forced to take arms. This would depend upon the decision of all the princes united, and not upon the caprice of one alone.

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To pass from the drawbacks to the advantages. In Germany all the princes and free states have concurred. Saxony, Bavaria, Salzburg and Brunswick alone remain outside. Brunswick will not enter because of his dispute with his town, but he will come in. Saxony has hitherto been considered somewhat Austrian, but he will also accede if his pretensions in the duchy of Juliers are satisfied, as it is hoped they may be. The States belong, and as I have said, they have now made a union with the Hanseatic towns. An ambassador of Berne, a person of great intelligence, took occasion to come to England, whether to consult a physician of the king or for some other cause, and expressed the inclination of those cantons to ally with the princes. This is the beginning of a great confederation, for if the Swiss enter the Union of Germany the Grisons will be forced to enter also, like quicksilver which only consolidates in contact with something fixed. This will open the door to your Serenity and troops and succours can easily reach the republic I press this the more because Venice is my second fatherland.

At this point he opened a letter and said: I forgot to say that I delayed to perform this office because I was expecting to hear from the duke of Savoy. I have a letter from the resident of His Majesty in Turin, a gentleman of good quality who was secretary to my predecessor. He says that Chatillon (*Sciatiglion*) will bring 4,000 infantry, Lesdiguières 6,000, making four regiments, Montmorency 4,000 (I marvel, said the ambassador, shrugging his shoulders, seeing that France and Spain are bound together); that the count of Mansfeldt had arrived and offered the duke on behalf of the princes 4,000 infantry and 500 cavalry, asking nothing except the money for the first cost, and he proposes an alliance with the princes. His Highness had sent Mons. Biandra as ambassador, whom I know well. I return however to beg your Serenity to consider whether you will make this alliance for defence and peace, or at least to treat as negotiations will certainly lead to better and more friendly relations.

The doge replied thanking His Majesty for his friendliness. The matter should be discussed and what was thought expedient done.

The ambassador, after some formal words, took leave, having first introduced some gentlemen of Lord Dingwall to kiss the hands of his Serenity. The baron said that he would pass by the Palatinate on his return, would kiss the hands of the king's daughter and the Palatine, and would assist the affairs of his Serenity so far as he could.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 2.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**385.** OTTAVIO BON and PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Yesterday Lord Hay, Ambassador extraordinary of the king of England, entered this city. He comes to congratulate the king upon the marriages and the quiet of the kingdom. M. de Bonoell (*Bonaoglio*) went to meet him at St. Denis with the horses and equipment of His Majesty. A mile outside the city prince Joinville, brother of the duke of Guise, met him with a great company of horse, and accompanied him to the house of the late Queen Margaret, which

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was prepared for his reception. He made his entry with a good number of English cavaliers. We sent the secretaries to St. Denis to pay our respects, to which he replied very courteously. We will visit him later, and perform every office more fully.

The three sons of the late Ambassador Gregorio Barbarigo arrived here to-day from England.

Paris, the 2nd August, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 5.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**386.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The Secretary Winwood returned to London on Saturday, sent by the king to take to each ambassador the replies upon their particular affairs. After doing this he set off again on Tuesday to rejoin His Majesty, with whom he will stay for about a month at a distance of some 130 miles from London. I saw him and he told me in the king's name that His Majesty's affection towards the republic continues as warm as it has ever been, that he will declare himself a friend and do everything which he can for your service, and that these disturbances with the Uscochi and the Austrians may be satisfactorily terminated he is ready to do whatever your Serenity may desire. He charged the secretary that if any commission to ask for anything should come to me while the secretary was in progress with the king, I should write him a line if I wished. That with regard to these sentiments and this declaration of His Majesty, orders had been sent to the Ambassador Wotton to go into the Cabinet and speak in conformity and in particular of the desire of His Majesty that these disturbances may be appeased. The secretary, as if of his own motion remarked to me that the king continued in his customary friendliness towards your Excellencies and his desire for a favourable issue in this matter, as in past years, but he did not enter into further particulars about more public demonstrations made by him at other times, because then the difference lay between your Serenity and a prince unfriendly to the king, with whom His Majesty had no occasion to mince matters, but now it is a question with the king of Spain, a prince of such greatness, with whom His Majesty enjoys friendly relations and to whom he is bound moreover by more considerable bonds than to your Serenity. He simply said this to explain the reasons why the declaration was not made in the same way as heretofore. But with regard to the manner of serving the republic, he will declare himself rather by acts if he is especially requested. As I knew that this was all that could be expected from the king, I begged Winwood to thank His Majesty in the name of your Excellencies for the kind declarations, which had not been requested because there was any doubt about the continuation of His Majesty's affection towards the republic but simply because you were sure that such declarations would greatly benefit your affairs and would also notably increase His Majesty's glory. I thanked the Secretary for the confidential manner in which he had expressed the ideas of His Majesty and showing by what motive he was guided. I could not say a word against that, and would simply take the liberty to remark that no prince in the world could reasonably complain of what His Majesty promised to do for the service of the republic in the present affair, he*

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was simply taking the side of a power unfairly molested, which was more joined to him by friendly ties than others were by documents, but that I was satisfied because I felt sure that your Excellencies would be when you received my letter and especially when Wotton has executed the commands sent to him to express His Majesty's good will.

I also executed the commissions sent me by your Excellencies in the letters of the 8th ult. giving him the letters for His Majesty and expressing the feeling of satisfaction with Wotton, who is well known to your Serenity. I also returned thanks for the king's letter upon the death of the Ambassador Barbarigo, as commanded by your Serenity. The Secretary promised that he would transmit everything to His Majesty.

Winwood again assured the ambassador of Savoy, as His Majesty had previously done with his own lips, that he is resolved to use force against the Spaniards if they do not whole heartedly observe the treaty of Asti. In order that the offices of Bethune at Milan and of Hay at Paris may not produce their effect, it is believed that the Count of Bucquoi has at this moment gone to Brussels, as news has come that he passed through Paris. There are rumours that he took with him commissions for war. In a few days we may expect to see what will happen.

London, the 5th August, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

Aug. 5.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**387.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

I received your letters of the 15 July this morning. I will not take action until I receive your reply to mine of the 1st July, as I feel sure that the disclosure of these letters is due to M. de la Forêt. Since those letters I have done no more in the matter, because Nodari continues absent in the country and Forêt went away with the French ambassador a few days ago. I think Nodari has done all that can be expected of him, and I hope that he will be contented with 50 ducats. I have promised nothing to Sir [William] Smith beyond an expression of my goodwill to facilitate the matter of his debt. I hope to get the whole affair out of M. de la Forêt, and I am sure to do so if I can add a promise of 50 or 100 ducats.

London, the 5th August, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

Aug. 9.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**388.** GASPAR SPINELLO, Venetian Resident at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

From the conversation of some of the principal men here I gather that there are two points upon which the Spaniards set great store, one that the treaty of Asti be not carried out on any account; the other that the affairs of your Serenity with the archduke shall not proceed *pari passu* with that of the duke of Savoy with Milan. Cardinal Sforza told me that the pope himself, notwithstanding that the Nuncio Savelli signed the treaty of Asti, is bound to be opposed to it, because the apostolic dignity

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is offended by the participation in it of the king of England, who has nothing to do with Italy either on account of his possessions, proximity or religion.

Naples, the 9th August, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 10.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Grisoni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**389.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA PADAVIN, Venetian Secretary in the Grisons, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The duke of Savoy asked for 4,000 Bernese infantry, to be paid by them for four months, in defence of his states which march with theirs. He offers to pay them himself on the expiry of the four months. He also offers to refer to the king of Great Britain his claims upon the bailiwicks possessed by them, with a reservation to each of the parties to nominate another judge. There are some difficulties in the way of this, but I hear that the duke would be satisfied if they guaranteed him against Spain.

Zurich, the 10th August, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 18.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**390.** To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

M. de Bethune has arranged a suspension of arms between the duke of Savoy and the Governor of Milan to last during the present month. They are not obliged to withdraw their troops from the frontiers or to stop arming, but only to abstain from hostile acts. His Highness in informing our ambassador of this proposed a closer union in writing, in which we should bind ourselves to make no agreement with the archduke unless the Spaniards disarm, and declare other fixed assistance. We pointed out many good reasons why this should disturb the general peace, and that a union of hearts is all that is necessary for the moment, accompanied by a good understanding and definite acts when occasion requires, in order to secure the peace of this province, which is our principal object. This is only for information.

The like to Rome, Germany, France, Spain, Constantinople, Milan, Zurich, Naples, Florence, the Hague, Mantua.

Ayes 162.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 18.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**391.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

This week I received three letters from your Serenity, one of the 20th ult. relating the arrival of Lord Dingwall and what took place with him until his departure from Venice, and the instructions to present letters to His Majesty and to thank him, with other matters. As I cannot execute these with His Majesty for many days and weeks, until he returns from his progress, I thought well to pass the office with the secretary, but as he is still with the

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king and is not likely to return very soon, and as it is right that His Majesty should be informed before the return of the baron, I will follow the line of conduct usually observed at this court upon such occasions, even in affairs of greater importance, namely, to inform the secretary of everything by letter; he will immediately acquaint the king, and will forward me the reply if one is called for. When I have occasion to see His Majesty later on, I will seize a favourable opportunity to repeat the office, to the satisfaction of your Excellencies.

With regard to Lord Dingwall I have two things to say to your Excellencies, one is that he arranged nothing with the late Ambassador Barbarigo, and did not even impart to him what he proposed to ask of your Serenity. He only spoke to him two or three times in a general way about his goodwill, obtained a recommendation from him in an audience of the king, and begged him at his departure for those letters to your Excellencies which he took with him. I have always understood that he dealt with Sig. Foscarini in the same general terms, the latter never going beyond those expressions which are customary in order to secure the friendship of the magnates of the Court and those who are in favour with the prince. Neither of the ambassadors promised more in the name of your Excellencies than wise and prudent ministers could do.

The other thing is that the offer of 6,000 infantry is so great that it would be practically impossible to make it good for the service of your Serenity, and even for a much smaller number someone remarked that your Excellencies might easily have received the offer by interesting the king, if by no one else. Moreover to take 6,000 foot out of England under a Scottish captain is a very difficult matter, and there are many serious questions involved with which I need not now trouble your Serenity.

The second letters of the same day, the 20th, contain information upon the news which I wrote had reached His Majesty from Italy about the assistance given by the republic to the duke of Savoy. I have succeeded before now with the assistance of the ambassador of Savoy, in acquainting both the king and the secretary of the real truth and I will continue the same course when any opportunity occurs, as I now know more certainly that the whole news is unfounded.

The third letters of your Serenity are of the 21st of the same month, and contain particulars of events in Istria and the reprisals upon the archduke. News of this has reached here by letters from many people. The general idea formed here by men in discussing their affairs is that the Spaniards and Austrians are deriving a great advantage from delay and the slow progress of the negotiations both with your Excellencies and with Savoy, as they take small account of the money which they spend to keep armies on foot, while they are making your Serenity and the duke spend a great deal to the great detriment of your dominions. What is more important, the Spaniards, whenever they wish it, can have peace, so that if matters prosper with them, they will push on the war, and if matters turn out ill, they will come to a settlement. The contrary is the case with your Serenity and Savoy who will willingly

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accept proposals for a settlement, owing to your inclination for peace, whenever they are put forward. For the rest all recognise that right is on the side of your Serenity and of Savoy, and they loudly blame the methods of negotiation adopted by the Austrians.

London, the 13th August, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 13.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**392.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have recently obtained from the king and his royal council leave to take from this island 50 thousand of powder for the service of your Excellencies. This powder, with great labour, has been gradually collected from various merchants who had previously received orders from Sig. Barbarigo, in obedience to instructions given in letters of the 18th March. I believe that it will be laden within a fortnight, and when it is, I will send more exact information to the Provveditori of the artillery. At present I can only say that the merchants will take it at their own risk without fixing a price. But they will deliver it at the arsenal, and they are to provide it for less than 20 soldi the pound at a lower price than what the other was bought for at Amsterdam. If your Excellencies wish for more still I hope in the future to be able to find a larger quantity, as there has been a great scarcity hitherto, so that the Lords of the Council opened their eyes when I preferred my request and made some regulations upon the matter so that the kingdom should be better supplied.

After Lord Hay left England they took up again the negotiations for a marriage with Spain and they are circulating various arguments among the people which have made an impression upon them, and seem plausible even to the Puritans. Among others one has produced a great impression, namely that if their future king, who was born in Scotland of a Scotch father, and with whom the Scotch will be in high favour, as they are at present, allies himself to a French wife, two nations, which have always been united and have had a good understanding together against the English, England will suffer grave prejudice which would not be the case if the prince took a Spaniard, in which event, with the sole exception of matters affecting religion, the situation would be more reasonable (*partito che fu d'Inghilterra il Baron d'Hais si è ritornato a ripigliare la pratica di matrimonio con Spagna, et si vanno disseminando fra il popolo certe ragione che riescono appresso di esso et anco delle medesimi Puritani assai plausibile, et fra le altre evi questa che fa grand' effetto, che se al loro futuro re, che' è nato in Scotia et di Padre Scoceze et appresso il quale i Scocezzi saranno come sonno al presente in tanto credito, si conginge una moglie francese, nationi ambedue, che sempre sono state unite, et si sono ben intesi insieme contra gl'Inglesi, l'Inghilterra riceverebbe gran pregiudicio, cosa che non accaderà prendendo una Spagnuola, quale rimosso il solo rispetto della religione tutte le altre cose passeranno più moderatamente*). Nevertheless it has seemed a great matter that the king should take up the negotiations as he has, immediately after the departure of



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the baron, and they say that he may have done so for one out of three reasons; either to make the French jealous, and thus have an advantage over them in the negotiations; to make a jest of the king of Spain, as His Majesty is warned that the Catholic king is only keeping up the negotiations as a jest, since he has no intention of giving him his daughter; the third to keep all the negotiations in such a state that if one fails the other may not fall through. I know that the French ambassador writes about this to their Most Christian Majesties, and supposes in his letters that the king wishes to make them jealous.

M. de Villeroi has written to their ambassador here about the prohibition issued in France that no soldier shall go to serve foreign princes, saying that this has been done simply to maintain their neutrality, and they will be the better able to help in an accommodation by their intervention, but that none the less, all who wish will be allowed to go to the wars, and no proceedings will be taken against them.

The 860,000 crowns which the States have paid for the recovery of the places in Holland have at this time been completely expended by assignment, and a great part paid. It is true that a number of the king's debts have been discharged thereby, and they are about to relieve his revenues and to improve his credit with the merchants, so that in future need he could raise great sums from them, a thing which could not have been done so easily before. I know that some of these merchants will pay His Majesty whatever he wishes to remit up to half a million of gold to Italy, and this facility might easily prove beneficial to the interests of our province.

London, the 18th August, 1616.

[Italian.]

Aug. 13.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**393.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

*With orders from your Excellencies of 21 July I saw M. de la Forêt and after a long discussion and a promise to give him 100 ducats, he confessed that he had obtained the letters from Ottavio, the chamberlain of Sig. Foscarini. One evening, about twenty days before Sig. Foscarini left England, Ottavio secretly brought him a small register of eight or nine sheets, beginning at the 28th August. He copied it that night, and took it back the next morning, giving him 12 crowns. Afterwards, when Sig. Foscarini went to the last audience at Newmarket remaining two or three days out of London, Ottavio remained behind and gave him the other papers up to the 20 November. Forêt kept them two days, made copies, and returned the papers in time for the ambassador's return, giving another gratuity. He had never had any other papers of Sig. Foscarini previously; but if Ottavio had been able to find the other registers of England he would have given them, but he could only obtain these and those of France, which Forêt did not care about and would not take the trouble to read. Ottavio did not know that he wanted to copy them, but thought he only wanted to read them out of curiosity and he begs that he may not be punished severely.*

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*Forèt afterwards showed the register to the ambassador of France and to another person, he would not say whom, but I know that it was the ambassador of Spain.*

*This is the entire affair. I do not believe that Ottavio had an accomplice. After the confession I gave Forèt the 100 ducats and he promised to give a receipt. I will also give a reward to Nodari when he returns. I will inform Smith as instructed, I have only spoken to him on this affair through the mediation of Nodari, at Smith's desire, so that he can swear truthfully that he has never dealt with me.*

From London, the 13 August, 1616.

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

Aug. 13.  
Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**394.** The AMBASSADOR OF ENGLAND came into the CABINET and said:

I come on behalf of the Lord Dingwell to thank your Serenity for the favours rendered to him. I have also to thank you for the honours received by him from the Governor of Palma and the general of the armies. He continued: After I have seen with what kindness your Serenity receives those who offer their service, I am come this morning to offer a new servant. This is the duke of Holstein (*Ostel*),\* the only brother of the king of Denmark and of the queen of Great Britain. He has long desired to serve your Serenity, ever since M. de Vaudemont laid down his command. But at that time my master was under a promise to another prince and nothing was done. He is a brave prince, who could bring 5,000 horse to the service of the republic and convert them into infantry if that is preferred. I have simply come to learn whether his offer will be acceptable.

The doge replied expressing his gratification that the baron was pleased with his reception. No answer can be given to the other matter as yet, owing to pressure of business, but it shall be given as soon as possible.

The ambassador said that a reply would be opportune, as all the princes of the Union were shortly to meet in a diet, to be attended also by the ambassadors of the States, to settle a certain matter and come to some decision with regard to these affairs with the arch-duke in Flanders.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 14.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disputaci.  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**395.** PIETRO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The ambassador of Florence here advances the same pretensions as the one resident at Rome, to treat as an equal with the ambassador of your Serenity. He acts differently towards the French ambassador and also with the English, as I learn from the secretary resident here.

Madrid, the 14th August, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

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\* Probably Joachim Ernest, duke of Holstein Sleswig. John Adolph, duke of Holstein, who married Augusta, sister of Christian IV., king of Denmark, died on 31st March, 1616.

1616.  
Aug. 16.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**396.** OTTAVIO BON and PIETRO CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Lord Hay, the extraordinary ambassador of England, went to his first audience in great pomp, both because of the richness of the clothes and of the number of lords who accompanied him. He has since had audience upon the resumption of the negotiations for the marriage of the prince there to the king's sister. He also spoke upon the affairs of Savoy and of our own also with regard to the pass of the Grisons, saying that he had special instructions from his king. The ordinary ambassador has also spoken to the princes and ministers here, and as he is very well informed, the two together have done as much as they could in the service of your Excellencies. We have been to see Lord Hay, and thanked him warmly, assuring him of the esteem of the republic for his king, and saying that this increased our obligations and our desire to please His Majesty in all things. He told us that he had orders from His Majesty upon this subject so express that they bade him show no less zeal than upon the affairs of that crown.

The ambassador is entertained every day by the lords and princes here with great magnificence. The Catholic ambassador complains at this, as he does not think that the duke of Pastrana has been treated so courteously.

Paris, the 16th August, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 17.  
Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**397.** Resolved that Antonio Foscarini remain under arrest, in charge of the Inquisitors of State, who will continue to draw up the process both with reference to the things contained therein and also to the fact that many of his letters reached the hands of the Minister of a great power and other personages in England, and that on the conclusion of the process they do then come to this Council for the despatch of the case.

Ayes 12.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 18.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**398.** To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

Our troops on the way to Pontieba had frequent skirmishes with the enemy, especially when crossing a bridge over the Torrisite della Fela; but, praise God, they recovered Pontieba, killing several of the enemy and taking some booty, with inconsiderable loss to ourselves. Our troops have made some raids into the territory of Trieste, inflicting considerable damage. This is for information.

Ayes 156.

Noes 0.

Neutral 4.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, Spain, France, Turin, Milan, Florence, Zurich, the Hague.

[*Italian.*]

1616.

Aug. 20.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**399. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.**

We hear from Prague that the ambassador of Tuscany made proposals with regard to our differences with the archduke Ferdinand, which you will see by the enclosed note. The ambassador has sounded the archduke's ambassador in order to discover the sentiments of His Highness, but so far without finding anything clear. We do not know what to say about this new proposal, except that it has been proposed with more firmness than the preceding ones. Our ambassador will treat with sincerity. We send this simply for information.

The like to Rome, France, Spain, Constantinople, Milan, Florence, Naples, Zurich, the Hague, Mantua.

Ayes 175.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[Italian.]

Aug. 20.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**400. To the SECRETARY SURIAN.**

The ambassador of England has proposed that we shall join a league with the king, the princes of the Union and the States, whose ambassadors, he says, are to meet at a diet, shortly to be held in Germany, to discuss the arming of the Spaniards. We replied as you will see by the enclosed copy, neither rejecting the proposal nor embracing it for the present. You will follow the same line if the prince of Anhalt and Lenchio the Chancellor of Brandenburg speak to you upon the same affair, showing that the preparations of the Spaniards arouse great suspicions in all, in us as much as themselves; thus to arm and make proper provision is the prudent course, as if their intentions are bad and they see opposition on every side, they will disturb no one, especially if they see that we are united for defence and the maintenance of ourselves and our liberty.

Ayes 155.

Noes 1.

Neutral 11.

[Italian.]

Aug. 20.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**401. ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The Starzer came here to advise me of the day of the entry of the imperial ambassadors. I sent my Secretary to meet them in great state, which was not excelled either by France or by Flanders. England did not go, owing to the question of precedence with France, and neither did Poland. I believe that upon other occasions they have come to blows over this very question.

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 20 August, 1616.

[Italian.]

1616.

Aug. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives

**402.** SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in Rome, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Most Christian Ambassador told me that he heard from France that the king of England is sending a cavalier to Paris<sup>o</sup> to negotiate a marriage between the English prince and the sister of his Most Christian Majesty, so that the negotiations with Spain are broken off.

Rome, the 20th August, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**403.** That the following be read to the AMBASSADOR OF ENGLAND.

The proposal of your Excellency that we should form a league with His Majesty and the Princes of the Union is great in itself, every power being bound to consider the forces which the Spaniards are collecting everywhere; we also have to think of our own rupture with the archduke and of the duke of Savoy owing to the reluctance to execute the treaty of Asti, which was guaranteed by so many powers and by His Majesty in particular. Therefore, it is only right that His Majesty and the said princes and states should arm and make provision. We are most closely linked in spirit with His Majesty and the said princes by preserving the best understanding and by a determination to join to protect our common interests, as we have explained by our ambassadors and secretaries. As the diet of the Princes is shortly to meet the ambassadors of the States to discuss the arming of the Spaniards, and the inclusion of the duke of Savoy and the Swiss and to see the resolution of the Grisons, we make reply that it is well to proceed in such a manner that every one may be certain to carry out what is agreed; meanwhile your Excellency may assure His Majesty and the princes of our best disposition in this affair, and of our indebtedness to them. We have the same objects of maintaining the liberty of all which we have displayed in the past and present troubles of Italy.

With regard to the disposition of the duke of Holstein (*Ostoch*), brother of the king of Denmark, mentioned by your Excellency, to enter our service, we know that this is the fruit of the friendship of the king of Great Britain towards us, which is known by those most closely connected with him. Our needs are present and do not admit of delay; but we receive with heartfelt gratitude this testimony of the affection of His Majesty, for which we are deeply indebted to him.

Ayes 156.

Noes 0.

Neutral 14.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**404.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO.

We send you our reply to the ambassador of England upon his proposals for a league and the offer of the duke of Ostoch. This is simply for information.

Ayes 156.

Noes 0.

Neutral 14.

[*Italian.*]

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\* Lord Hay.

1616.

Aug. 22.  
Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**405.** The reply of the SENATE of the 20th was read to the AMBASSADOR OF ENGLAND. He replied :

I thank your Serenity for the reply which has been given very speedily, considering the gravity of the matter. I also thank you for your recognition of my goodwill, which I may say, once for all, will never change. I will transmit the reply to His Majesty, but as I cannot trust my memory I beg your Serenity to allow me to hear it again, apart. The doge having given permission, he rose and took leave. The deliberation was again read to him, and he took notes, weighing the passage referring to the necessity of awaiting the decision of the diet of Germany.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 22.  
Senato,  
Terra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**406.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO has served diligently in a manner which leaves nothing to be desired, for seven years continuously, in three embassies, and has devoted his allowance of 10 ducats a month to a decipherer. At present he is supplying the place of ambassador at the English court. He is now reduced to difficulties, owing to his slender fortune. That 10 ducats a month be granted to him for life of the money of the debtors of the office of the Rason Nuove, in recognition of his services.

Ayes 157.

Noes 9.

Neutral 10.

In the Cabinet Ayes 16.

Noes 1.

Neutral 4.

Second vote Ayes 17.

Noes 2.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 22.  
Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**407.** That Ottavio Robbazzi of Lona, valet of Antonio Foscari during his embassy in England, be detained under arrest and made over to the Inquisitors.

Ayes 10.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 26.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaeci.  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**408.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Carleton, the English ambassador to the States, is at Spa, and at this holiday time there are no other ministers of princes here.

The Hague, the 24th August, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 26.  
Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**409.** That Don Gieronimo Moravio, chaplain to Antonio Foscari during his embassies to France and England, detained by order of the Inquisitors of State, be dismissed from custody, without putting him on oath to what he has hitherto deposed, in the

1616.

course of the process, swearing him to silence however, should it be thought fit.

Ayes 12.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 26.

Secreta.  
Dispositi.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

410. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

With the progress of the king and the absence of all the grandees of the Court there is such an absence of business that nothing fresh has happened for some days, the more so because all the most important decisions depend at present, to a certain extent, upon the negotiations of Lord Hay in France and of Bethune in Italy. It is not yet known what the latter has done in Milan, or what will be the results of his intermission, but everyone is greedily awaiting news, and the ambassador of Savoy in particular, in order to have an opportunity of asking the king for the carrying out of his promises if an accommodation proves impossible as he anticipates. The Spanish ambassador has told the ambassador of France that Don Pedro of Toledo is willing to entirely carry out the treaty by restoring the places, and that the duke will be satisfied. The French ambassador replied that he had quite other information from other sources and in particular from the ministers of his Most Christian Majesty in Italy, but that he cannot believe it unless it is to do him a service. The Spaniard replied that that is actually the case, since the Catholic king does not desire a palm of land from any prince, and if the Governor does not disarm, it is not on account of His Highness, but because of your Serenity, owing to the disputes between you and the archduke. Upon this they had a long argument, the Most Christian ambassador very ably supporting the side of the duke, as for some days he has been revising his position upon various matters, and showing himself a better Frenchman than before, possibly because he sees that the state of affairs in France requires rather more moderation. Moreover, with regard to himself personally, he asked leave to depart and has received letters from his friend Villeroi exhorting him to continue to serve with a good heart, as he will not share in the fall of the Chancellor, his father-in-law, and there is no thought of removing him from this service.

Two days ago Mr. Moore arrived here from Paris, sent post by Lord Hay with an account of the beginning and introduction of his affairs. It has not been possible to discover anything here at London, because he immediately went on to the king, who will send him back to France with his decision. He left a report somewhere that Lord Hay has not only received the most complete satisfaction in his welcome, but that his negotiations are in very good train, and that Moore would stake 4,000 crowns to 1,000 that the marriage with France would be concluded.

The Spaniards publish the contrary, that Lord Hay will do nothing, that he has not been well received in Paris and that one of his men has been killed. I hope before many days have passed

1616.

that we in London shall be able to obtain some certain news of the state of these affairs, and that your Excellencies may also receive information from those parts, besides what you may have received from elsewhere.

I have already informed the Secretary Winwood of what your Serenity committed to me with respect to Lord Dingwall, and have sent him the letters for the king, but he has not made any reply, nor do I expect one, as the custom here is to pass over any matter that does not require particular attention.

The Count of Bucquoi has arrived at Brussels. By letters which I receive from Flanders, and from what the Dutch ambassador says it is almost certain that he bears commissions of great moment, but he says nothing about them, and no particulars have been discovered, and the more weighty the matter the more closely it will be kept secret among a few individuals. However, many are agreed upon this point that owing to the advanced season nothing now can be expected at present, but everything will be kept for the beginning of next season.

The queen asked her brother, the king of Denmark, for six pregnant mares of that country, in order to propagate the race in England, as it is a very fine one. He sent her twelve, and in addition a sideboard decorated with solid gold for her use, worth about 40,000 crowns, as that king is glad to cherish the affection of the queen, owing to the advantages which he may derive in his differences with the states of Holland, with whom the queen, chiefly on his account, is on unfriendly terms, and sometimes openly speaks her mind.

I have your Excellencies' letters of the 23rd July, and will use them as instructed.

London, the 26th August, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 26.  
Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

411. That Giulio Muscornio be detained under arrest and made over to the Inquisitors of State to be examined upon the things laid before this Council and also upon those contained in the process against Antonio Foscari.

Ayes 18.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 26.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Lettere agli  
Ambasciatori  
d'Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

412. The INQUISITORS of STATE to GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England.

Our letters of the 21 July will remove your doubts with regard to dealing with M. de la Forêt. The powers we gave will enable you to obtain information about the copies of Foscari's letters. Your letters of the 5th inst. inform us of the necessity for superseding the affair owing to the absence of la Forêt. But we are most anxious for these particulars. Above all things, even if the matter cannot be elucidated by M. de la Forêt the investigation must not be abandoned.

[*Italian.*]



1616.  
Aug. 26.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**413. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.**

On my return from Oxford yesterday evening, my servant Antonio Padoano told me that one *Pietro, a Frenchman, servant of M. de la Forêt*, had come to speak to me. *He had been ill-treated by his master, and wished to disclose matters of importance, in particular that his master had received some public letters from Ottavio, servant of Sig. Foscari, had copied them and given copies to the ambassador of Spain, who had assigned him a provision of 50 lire or 20 ducats a month for this. He showed me copies of the letters to prove the truth of the statement. He said he would come again after he had returned from Villa, where he was going.*

*I have not yet spoken to Nodari or communicated with Smith.*

In the public library of Oxford, which is the principal University of the realm, I found a large volume in manuscript containing a relation of Venice and some discourses, without any author's name, and a number of the relations of Venetian ambassadors. It seemed strange to me that important papers of the republic should be so disseminated, and I have thought right to report it, especially as this accident happens too frequently to the documents of other princes.\*

From London, the 26 August, 1616.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**414. Relations in the library of Oxford.**

Of England, by Ser Z. Michiel.

Of Savoy, by Ser Francesco Molin.

Of the King of the Romans, by Ser Lorenzo Contarini.

\* The volume in question may still be seen at the Bodleian library at Oxford. It is entered as MS. Bodl. No. 911, and consists of 741 pages written in Italian on both sides in the same hand throughout. The contents in order will be seen to comprise a good deal more than Lionello mentions.

Relation of Sig. Gio. Michiel, England, 1557.

do. Francesco Molin, Savoy, 1576.

do. Lorenzo Contarini, Rome, 1548.

do. Michiel Surian, Ferdinand, King of the Romans, 1557.

Abstract of relation of Paulo Tiepolo, on Ferdinand, King of the Romans, 1557.

Relation of Tiepolo, King Philip (Spain), 1587.

Discourse of Portugal, by Const. di Garzoni.

Poland, by Girolamo Lippomano.

Relation of Maro Antonio Barbaro, Constantinople, 1578.

do. Giacomo Soranzo, Constantinople, 1578.

Discourse upon Muscovy.

Relation of Persia of Vincenzo di Alessandri, 1574.

Letter of a knight by Malta to the Grand Master on fortifications of Malta.

Naples and the claims of France thereon.

Milan and do.

Claims of England on France.

Claims of Savoy on Montferrat.

ditto on Saluzzo.

Of Charles IX.

Speech of Montluc to the Signory of Venice, 1548.

Description of the strength of Venice for King Philip.

Relation of Mocenigo, Provveditore of the Mainland, 1568.

Relation of the Syndies of Dalmatia and the Levant, 1576.

do. do. of the Levant, 1566.

Discourse on Ragusa.

1616.

Of the King of the Romans, by Ser Michael Surian.  
 Of Spain, by . . . Tiepolo, 1567.  
 Of Poland, by Ser Hieronimo Lippomano.  
 Of Constantinople, by Ser Marc Antonio Barbaro.  
 Of Constantinople, by Ser Giacomo Soranzo.  
 Of Persia, by Vincenzo Alessandri, Secretary.  
 Of Rome, by Ser Barnardo Navagier.  
 Of the Main land by Ser Alvise Mocenigo, Proveditore, 1568.  
 Of Dalmatia and the Levant, by Ser Ottavian Valier and  
 Andrea Zustinian, 1576.  
 Of the Syndicate of the Levant of 1566.  
 Discourse on Portugal by Ser Costantin di Garzoni.  
 [Italian.]

Aug. 28.  
 Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Deliberazioni.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.

## 415. To the AMBASSADOR in England.

Nothing has been done to disturb commercial relations in the parts of Pontieba on our part, but the archducal forces recently descended upon Pontieba doing considerable damage and taking the place. We have been compelled to assemble our forces and recapture it, and we have also occupied the German Pontieba and captured papers containing the archduke's orders to take that place. Our captains have also taken further steps to secure our territory. This is for information. In occupying Malsorghetto some of our soldiers set fire to the place. We have accordingly republished very strict orders against such incendiarism. Our troops have taken Chiavoredo, an important place, after a long fight. We captured two pieces of artillery and other booty. This led the enemy to abandon Lucinis and withdraw beyond Lisonzo.

How Cyprus became Venetian.

Of Scotland.

Relation of Emilian Manolesso, Ferrara, 1575.

Discourse on Genoa.

Relation of Gussoni, Florence, 1576.

do. Bernardo Navagieri.

Discourse of Naples.

Precedence between Spain and France.

Reply of the duke of Ferrara to the duke of Florence.

The volume was presented to the library by Sir Richard Spencer in 1803. Lionello might have seen another and similar volume in the same collection, MS. Bodl. 880, which was presented to the library in 1600 along with a number of printed books, by William Gent, Esq., and is one of the earliest MSS. acquired by the Bodleian. It consists of 654 pages, written in Italian, the whole, except the first paper, being in the same hand. The contents are as follows:—

Discourse on Switzerland.

Discourse on the war between the Turks and Persia.

Relation of England by Petruccio Ubaldino of Florence, 1551.

do. of Savoy by Baldu.

do. of England, by Michiel, 1557.

do. of Constantinople, by Brdoer, 1573.

Discourse on Muscovy.

Relation of Ferrara, by Manolesso, 1575.

do. of Savoy, by Fr. Molino, 1576.

do. of Florence, by Gussoni, 1576.

Of the Signory of Venice, 1579.

I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Madan. Bodley's sub-librarian, for the bibliographical particulars given above.

1616.

Our cavalry occupied Lucinis, destroying the trenches and burning the quarters.

The like to France, Rome, Germany, Spain, Savoy, Florence and other princes.

Ayes 162.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

[Italian.]

Sept. 1.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

416. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

Our troops have ravaged towards Plez, a foraging country for the enemy. They made a show of opposition more than once, but ultimately withdrew. We have destroyed the bridges there. Pontieba has been strengthened by a new fort. The enemy has made no sign near Chiavaredo. Goritz and Gradiaca are better guarded. The Proveditore General in Dalmatia has inflicted some damage upon Buccari and punished the people there for their insults to our subjects.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Savoy, Constantinople, Mantua, Florence, Milan, Naples, Zurich and the Hague.

Ayes 148.

Noes 0.

Neutral 3.

[Italian.]

Sept. 1.

Cinque Savii  
Alla  
Mercanzia.  
Risposte.  
Venetian  
Archives.

417. We have read the petition of Zuanne Budeache, *part owner* of the English ship *Unita*, asking that he may take from Zante 200 loads of native oil on that island, paying the usual customs, to take them to England where ships serve, as a return for having brought troops here on his ship which was to have gone to Calamata, at the request of the Proveditore of Zante, we are of opinion that this request is contrary to the laws and ought not to be granted, but your Serenity will find some other way of rewarding him for his service.

Zuanne Falier.

Zuan Marco Molin.

Antonio Longo.

Zaccaria Bondumier.

[Italian.]

Sept. 2.

Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

418. The committee to examine Ottavio Bobbazzi, valet of Antonio Foscari, entertain doubts whether, in order to obtain from him what justice requires for the crime of having delivered into foreign hands and to ambassadors and others the registers of the despatches written by Foscari to the Senate, they should torture him, or put him on his defence at once, and pass sentence.

The white balloting urn will receive the ballot of those in favour of his being racked, the green one those for his being put upon

1616

1616.

his defence, and that a report be made to this council as speedily as possible. The red urn for neutrals.

In the white urn 3.

In the green urn 11.

In the red urn 0.

Carried to put him on his defence.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 2.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.

Lettere agli  
Ambasciatori  
d'Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**419.** The INQUISITORS of STATE to GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England.

We are much pleased with what you obtained from M. de la Forêt, as related in your letters of the 13th inst. We are also pleased with the reward of 100 ducats given to him, and have given orders for the payment of that sum. We await your further orders and should be glad of other light upon the subject. Excessive diligence and watchfulness are impossible in so grave a matter.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 7.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**420.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

A gentleman arrived here last Sunday from the duke of Wirtemberg with letters for the king of Great Britain. He arrived in great haste and left immediately for London.

The Hague, the 7th September, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 7.  
Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**421.** Resolved that sentence be passed on OTTAVIO ROBBAZZI.

Ayes 18.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

Proposed that he be condemned to the galleys for ten years. If unfit for this, that on Saturday the 10th his soundest hand be amputated between the columns of St. Mark and that he be imprisoned for twenty years; should he escape he shall be outlawed and hanged if taken.

Ayes 7.

Noes 9.

Neutral 0.

Proposed that on Saturday next he be strangled in prison.

Ayes 4.

Noes 4.

Neutral 1.

Proposed that he be condemned to five years in the galleys, or ten years imprisonment without amputation of the hand.

Ayes 3.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

The last proposition withdrawn.

[*Italian.*]

47011

1616.

Sept. 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**422. ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*The king has a foolish fear that the Franks are so numerous in Galata that with the assistance of the Greeks, who also live there, they may make a rising in the city. Turkish subjects have been ordered to wear long cloaks with caps of black cloth and a fur border; the Franks, under which name they include French, English, Flemings and Venetians, are to wear a cloak and a short coat. In one day a complete metamorphosis of clothes has been seen at Galata, as all fear the fury of this Cadi Moro.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 8th September, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

Sept. 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**423. ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*The census of the Franks in Galata continues, and the prohibition of the Franks to pass from one district of Constantinople to another, which is no small inconvenience to traders, but it cannot last and it must be removed as soon as the census is completed. That he may not lose all the trouble upon the census, the Cadi Moro has published a declaration that all foreigners who have stayed here for more than a year are subject to the carazo, a thing they have attempted before, and which has been opposed by all the ambassadors. It is very different now, because they say it comes from the king.*

*The Cadi Moro has also demanded a note of all those of the households of the ambassadors of France, England, Flanders and Venice, and it has been impossible to refuse. All their troubles arise from the fact that the Pasha is not equal to his task.*

*The matter of the carazo is most important and all the ambassadors resident here ordinarily will unite for a common defence, but at present nothing has been definitely decided.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 8th September, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

Sept. 9.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**424. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.**

*The General in Friuli went to Lucinis, where the enemy left a force well provided. This was occupied; the site is important and the capture will facilitate further progress. We do not know further particulars. Nothing of moment has happened elsewhere.*

*The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Savoy, Florence, Mantua, Milan, Naples, the Hague, Zurich.*

Ayes 143.

Noes 3.

Neutral 4.

[Italian.]

1616.  
Sept. 9.  
Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**425.** The Nuncio came into the Cabinet and said :

Cardinal Borghese writes to say that he has learned that your Serenity has instituted a new college at Padua, where the doctorate may be obtained without a profession of faith. One who sets up to teach others ought to profess the Catholic faith and those who are to become physicians ought to consider it their first duty to remind the sick of the most holy sacraments. Any departure from this would be a scandal. The canons are very precise upon the point and there is a bull of Pope Paul IV. on the subject. I beg your Serenity to think well upon the matter.

The doge replied that they were ever zealous for the preservation and increase of religion.

Nicolo Contarini as a Reformer of the University of Padua explained that the step had been taken for the benefit of poor students who could not afford the cost of taking the doctorate from an ordinary college and also to remove the abuse of the Counts Palatine.

The nuncio praised the case for the poor, but he referred to heretics, who would not take the oath. He would await their decision in the matter.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 9.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Disposci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**426.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Now that the progress of His Majesty is drawing towards its close,\* it happens that news and important affairs are accumulating at this Court, and old matters are being revived which for some reason had been abandoned long since. Among other things the recent event in France is of great moment, the imprisonment of the prince of Condé and the flight of the other princes. The first news of this reached this city on Monday morning by a courier expressly sent by his Most Christian Majesty to his ambassador resident here. He, thinking the matter one of great importance, and in order to be the first to impress it after his own fashion upon the mind of the king, set out to go and meet him at a distance of thirty-seven miles. He returned to London yesterday evening, but highly disgusted. When he reached the place where the king, queen and prince were, he sent M. de la Chesnay (*Scienè*), his gentleman, to ask an audience of the king. His Majesty does not much care about negotiating with ambassadors, and greatly dislikes being suddenly taken by surprise by them, and in addition he has a personal dislike for the ambassador. Accordingly he gave him an appointment twelve days ahead at a place a considerable distance away. Dismayed at this, the ambassador decided as a last chance to send the same M. de Chesnay to communicate his news to the queen, so that she might inform the king and arouse His Majesty's curiosity to hear for himself and send for him immediately. However, this did not succeed, as some rumours reached the king's ears, and he became very anxious to know what had happened; but

\* James reached Woodstock towards the end of August. Nichols: *Progresses of James I.*, iii. p. 187.

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instead of summoning the ambassador he sent the Secretary Winwood to him. On seeing this the ambassador began to make loud complaints. He felt aggrieved because although a public personage and the representative of the greatest prince of Christendom, who had made a journey of forty miles, not for his own pleasure, in order to see the king, His Majesty has never had the curiosity to stir out of his house to see him, and though he brought matters of the greatest importance, he was refused an audience. Such treatment would justify a similar reception to the English ambassadors in France, only they would not do so, because it was unseemly. He swore by God that he would never again go to audience with the king upon this affair, even if one was appointed for him, nor yet upon others unless he was instructed to do so by very express orders from Paris. He afterwards told Winwood the substance of the news which he had, and then left the place to return home. On the way back he was overtaken by the secretary of the Lord Chamberlain, sent after him by the king's command to say that His Majesty would see him in three days at a place fifteen miles from London and would give him audience. But in spite of all the efforts made by this gentleman he could obtain no other reply from the ambassador except that His Majesty must not expect him, as he was quite determined, and he neither could nor would go.

What he had instructions to tell the king, and what in fact he did tell the Secretary Winwood was contained in a short letter written by His Most Christian Majesty to this effect: that he had heard and seen from various notes that there were certain authors of fresh machinations against the well-being and peace of France, and they have gone so far as to plot against his own person and the person of the queen, his mother, the matter being sufficiently proved by the flight of the persons implicated. What is more, these same persons have endeavoured in various ways to bribe the Prince of Condé, his cousin, to join with them, for which reason His Majesty has been compelled, though much against his will, to make sure of the person of the said Condé in one of the rooms of the castle, in order to clear up the truth, but without any intention of harming him.

On Wednesday at midday a courier passed through to the king, sent from France by his ambassadors, with a more circumstantial account of the affair. He arrived so late because he was hindered on the road by the French, who wished to allow their ambassador time to make the first impression upon His Majesty and to induce him to believe this important step to be less momentous and more just than it is believed to be. There is no doubt that it will seem very strange to the king of England, not only for reasons common to all the powers friendly to France, but much more because of his interposition a few months ago in the treaty and because the Prince of Condé went this last time to Paris practically at his instance, in order to be present and give his advice upon the matters introduced by Lord Hay, the extraordinary ambassador. I hear that the Secretary Winwood, when he heard these things from the French ambassador, betrayed his wrath and dissatisfaction by the movement of his body and the colour of his face. I have had no time, owing to my distance from the Court to learn more of what the king has said and done, but next week I will send your Excellencies full particulars.

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There are rumours that the negotiations for the marriage with France are meeting with insuperable difficulties, and it is probable that after the arrest of the prince they will encounter much greater ones. This would not grieve them much here, as the inclination of the magnates is almost unanimous in preferring a marriage with Spain (*Corre qualche voce la negociatione del matrimonio in Francia incontra troppo difficoltà, et è credibile, che doppo la retentione del Principe ne incontrera di molto maggiore che per qui non dispiacerà molto, essendo quasi universale l'inclinatione de' grandi all' effettuarlo più tosto con Spagna*).

London, the 9th September, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 9.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

427. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

A month passed without the ambassador of Savoy receiving any news from Piedmont, so that he is considerably perturbed because he does not know how things are going, and because he cannot continue negotiations with the king for the service of his master. At length on Wednesday morning he received letters from His Highness by the ordinary way, with two documents, one containing the first proposals made by Bethune to Don Pedro, the reply of Pedro and the answer of Bethune, and the other the copy of a letter written by the duke to M. d'Alincourt, informing him especially of the affairs of the duke of Nemours, and begging him to help the marquis of Lanzi for the defence of Savoy. But the principal letter written by His Highness to his ambassador speaks of the armistice granted by Bethune at the request of the Spaniards, who are expecting their final levies. When they have reached the state of Milan and the armistice has expired, he says he has no doubt that they will draw near to attack him, as this clearly appears from their having posted all their troops on his frontiers. By that time he also hopes to be in a posture to give a good account of himself, as he will have 30,000 foot and 3,000 horse; but he cannot last a long time with so many troops, as his country is much wasted by its past troubles. However, he directs him to impart all this to the king, and beg him to give some assistance, at least in money, to maintain his liberty, and if he is inclined to this, to give it quickly while he can make use of it, as if the king delays, he may not be in time, as he is compelled to make use at least of the shadow of his assistance, seeing that his offices are of no avail. He directs the ambassador to ask for powder, munitions and artillery, such as was promised at other times as a gift if war should break out before. He finally directs him to see about sending ten or twelve ships of Holland into the Mediterranean if His Majesty should think of sending his English there, to whom he would give a haven in the port of Villafranca, and they will be able to render useful services.

On receiving these letters the ambassador at once wrote to the Secretary Winwood, asking him to obtain an audience of the king in which it is only reasonable that he should obtain something definite from His Majesty now that the purposes of the Spaniards are manifest and that all the points have been passed which



1616.

His Majesty prescribed for himself before passing from words to deeds. In connection with this same audience the ambassador asked me if I should like him to put in something with His Majesty which I might think useful for the service of the republic. I thanked him and said that the account and information which he is to give the king may also prove of great assistance to the interests of your Serenity, even the persistence of the Spaniards in remaining armed and compelling the republic and the duke by force to obey their wishes, prejudices equally the affairs and liberty of both, and therefore the king ought to give the greater attention to relieving these two devoted friends of his from such a menace, and it would be equally advantageous to both if the ambassador should inform His Majesty of the mutual understanding between our masters and how openly and readily your Excellencies do everything you can to help the duke, notwithstanding the great weight of your own troubles.

This week I received your Excellencies' letters of the 13th August with news of the armistice, the proposal made by the duke and your reply, which I will use for information as directed. I do not think that the ambassador of Savoy here knows anything about it, and that His Highness has written nothing to him on the matter. I am almost sure of this because I have seen and read His Highness's letters, containing the same ideas, though set forth with greater amplitude of phraseology.

Hitherto I had the impression that though the sons of Barbarigo did not receive from His Majesty on their departure from England those signs of honour which are customary with ambassadors and which were due to them on every account owing to the death of their father, yet I thought that he would one day make good this omission, and therefore I put off writing to your Excellencies what I nevertheless think that you ought to know. They left here after having made the proper visits and having done all on their side, without His Majesty presenting them with the customary gift, although Sir [Lewis] Lewkenor, master of the ceremonies, and other gentlemen said that the king had remarked that the same should be given to them as would have been given to their father had he lived. But afterwards the matter was passed over in silence without another word. I believe that it is due to the bad intelligence between the ministers and courtiers among themselves, as what one inclines to, another denies, and very often a third party suffers, as has happened in this case. The sons of Barbarigo, with their natural generosity and nobility of soul, have not wished a word to be said about this, but I cannot help thinking it strange that they should be deprived of what, so to speak, belongs to them, especially as I know that in other cases of the death of an ambassador matters have passed very differently, and they have sent the donation due to the father to the sons at Venice. Everything conspires to the detriment of that unlucky house, and they have nothing to set against the loss of their father and their property except what they may expect from the gracious benignity of your Excellencies.

London, the 9th September, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

1616.

Sept. 9.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.

Dispacci,  
Inghilterra,  
Venetian  
Archives.

**428. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.**

*The Frenchman, Pietro, has been to see me, saying that he would have come before if he had not been detained by fear of assassination. I questioned him closely and learned that his master had had intelligence with Ottavio the valet for some time, and had obtained from him for gold public letters, which M. de la Forêt copied and gave copies to the ambassadors of France and Spain, the latter giving him 5 lire a month, employing him as a spy upon the ambassador of France and other ambassadors. He showed me some copies on Forêt's handwriting, which I took from him, giving him two crowns. I wish I had had this information a month or two ago as it would have spared me much trouble and anxiety and saved 150 ducats.*

*With regard to Nodari and Smith I have done nothing hitherto, as Nodari is away and in his absence I cannot bring myself to speak of this with the knight.*

*After I had paid the 100 ducats to Forêt, he, kindled possibly by the hope of something similar, showed me more confidence than usual, coming to report something from the house of the French ambassador, but his principal design is to hear some news from me to report elsewhere.*

From London, the 9 September, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

Sept. 10.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**429. SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in Rome, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

On Saturday evening, while I was occupied with my despatch to your Serenity, I had no time to tell you of an event which happened here perhaps that very evening. A certain Englishman, tall and of fine appearance, but by his mien and clothes apparently a man of moderate condition, while in the street near the Piazza Navona, saw the portrait of the pope in a painter's shop a little way off. He first threw some stones at it and then drew near and trampled under foot the pope's arms which stood hard by. The boys of the shop began to cry out, and a crowd collected, which stopped him. Then thirty *sbirri* came up and after a long struggle bound him and carried him off. He has been examined under torture by all the ministers here, but has suffered everything without once opening his mouth. The pope has been greatly upset, and the first night was unable to sleep at all. The matter has been much discussed, and the general opinion is that the rascal meant to kill the pope, but something having occurred to stop him, he vented his brutal fury upon the portrait. I understand that he will be handed over to the Inquisition and punished as a heretic.

Rome, the 10th September, 1616.

[Italian.]

1616.  
Sept. 13.  
Senato,  
Secreta,  
Dispaoci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**430. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Lord Dingwall, a Scotchman, arrived here yesterday and left for England on Saturday. He sent word to me to propose a visit, but I afterwards went with Colonel Horace Vere to dine at the house of the English ambassador, where he invited me to meet his lordship. He told me of the favours received from your Serenity, which he would never forget. He spoke at length of the friendship of his king for the republic; calling himself unfortunate in not having been able to serve when others could not so easily obtain men from England and Ireland. But he had at least fulfilled the promise made to the ambassadors and to your Serenity. All this showed how unwillingly he returned without having served. He said he thought from the evil offices of a certain Englishman about bringing men, that the distance had raised doubts in the mind of your Serenity. He had not been able to wait because of his wife; which is the same thing that the Ambassador Wotton touched upon at the beginning of his exposition. I endeavoured to assure him that his goodwill had given the utmost pleasure to your Excellencies, and that the only reason why you did not employ him was because there was no immediate occasion, but that you would always esteem him and remember his goodwill. He seemed satisfied and said he would give a good account to His Majesty of the honourable reception with which he had met in every part of your state.

When he was about to depart the English ambassador came to say good-bye, and as my house is near where the baron lodged, he came to see me. He was very affable, and protested that it was not a formal visit, as more ceremony was necessary with a minister of the republic, but that being near he could not refrain from coming to see me. After we had exchanged compliments he said that on the preceding day the baron had asked him to recommend him to your Serenity, and express his willingness to serve. He went on to say that he thought it would be prudent and judicious for your Serenity to take troops from his king's realm; and his master would always be ready to listen to proposals for a settlement with the Archduke Ferdinand; that it would be good to raise troops whether there was likelihood of an open rupture or of a settlement. The troops could not be ready before the winter; time would show what would happen, and whatever happened you would be ready for the spring. He remarked that in case your Serenity thought of enlisting English troops, he would remind you that it would be best to approach His Majesty to agree to the enlisting of a regiment of his subjects, as he was sure His Majesty would not refuse. That regiment, divided out among other new companies of English, would serve as a model and example to others. He called to mind that many brave knights had been here who would have served, and that Colonel Horace Vere had under him as brave and experienced men as ever served. He spoke in such wise as to show me that the English value themselves and do not like the advancement of the Scots. I remarked the same with General Cecil, who in speaking about Dingwall, used similar expressions. I thanked the ambassador for what he had said.

The Hague, the 13th September, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

1616.  
Sept. 13.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**431. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The gentleman of the duke of Wirtemberg, who set out in haste for London as I reported, went to advise the king there of the Burgundians who are occupying the county of Montbeliard (*Monbelgard*) in considerable numbers. This is a county of the duke. Thy proposed to winter there.

The Hague, the 13th September, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 16.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Lettere agli  
Ambasciatori  
d'Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**432. The INQUISITORS OF STATE to GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary Resident in England.**

Your letters of the 26 August inform us of the free offer of the Frenchman in the matter of Foscarini's letters. When he comes, he must have every encouragement to say all that he knows. With regard to the copies of the relations of the ambassadors and representatives of the republic, seen by your Excellency in the library of Oxford, we understand that you are actively engaged in discovering all matters concerning the public interests. No doubt you will forward particulars if you find anything of the present time.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 16.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**433. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Three days ago I received from your Serenity letters of the 18th and 23rd August relating the progress of the arms of your Excellencies in Friuli, which not only rejoices those who by some bond are bound to desire the prosperity of the republic, but all who receive the news express their pleasure and praise God for favouring the just cause. Those of the 20th contain the opening of the accommodation proposed by the Tuscan ambassador, of which I have not heard anyone speak here, except some conversation and hopes upon the going of the duke of Nevers to Germany, and I will therefore use it simply for information. The other letters of the 20th contain the two expositions of Sir (Henry) Wotton with the prudent reply of the Senate both in the matter of the league and in the offer of the duke of Holstein (*Ostoe*). Of this I am sure that news has reached the king by letters from his ambassador, and therefore, upon another pretext, I have sent someone immediately to the court, who without being aware of the affair, will nevertheless be able to report to me in some detail what His Majesty thinks of the last despatches from Venice, as by myself I am unable to form a judgment whether the king is more or less content at the delay of your Excellencies in replying more decisively, as on the one hand the reason which induces your Serenity to proceed with this prudence may afford tolerable satisfaction by itself, but on the other hand the anxiety of His Majesty to see this confederation formed, and all these powers united in the common defence, might induce him to desire more speedy progress. I, therefore, believe

1616.

that in this case His Majesty will have settled his disposition according to what Wotton has written, and in the same way that the ambassador received and interpreted the said reply. However, I will not say anything about this or about any other matter unless I am spoken to, and in such case I will rule myself by what your Excellencies command.

Yesterday the king came within twenty miles of this place \* and appointed the audience for the ambassador of Savoy for to-day. He should be speaking to His Majesty at this very moment and performing those offices which I reported in my last despatch. Besides the commissions which he held from the duke, a letter has reached him by way of France from the prince of Piedmont, who writes from Savoy what has taken place with the duke of Nemours, who intended to go to Milan if he could do nothing else. The prince has sent over to M. d'Alincourt and to M. le Grand in Burgundy, requesting him not to grant a passage, and with the same purpose he not only wrote to the count of Moretto at Paris, but also sent the President Fresia. After this narrative of events, the prince concludes his letter to the ambassador in these formal words: As we are not certain whether His Highness has written about this we have given orders to the count of Moretto to explain what has taken place, and what will take place in this matter, and we have given this summary account so that you may acquaint the king with the state of necessity of His Highness, who is opposed both openly and secretly by the Spaniards, contrary to the treaty of Asti, for which His Majesty is answerable. Now or never he must take up the defence and protection of His Highness by his royal and generous subsidies, as M. de Bethune who has been to Milan and returned, has brought no settled resolution for an accommodation, as was expected.

With all these orders the ambassador has been to the king to-day, disposed to make the warmest and most lively representations to move His Majesty to help the duke, according to so many promises made, now that there is nothing else to be expected except the news of some carnage or other unpleasant thing. He will return to London to-morrow, and if he brings back any weighty reply I will try in some way to send word immediately, by courier.

Various news has lately arrived from France, which will all have reached you much earlier. They all accentuate the strangeness of the decision to detain the prince, and the king in especial is very dissatisfied, wherefore he has sent a courier to Paris with orders to his ambassadors to make loud complaints and all sorts of offices to set him at liberty. The English ambassadors at once wrote that immediately after the event they went to see their Majesties to complain of what had happened, the more so as it was to the prejudice of their king who had pledged his word in the making of the treaty. But the queen tried to quiet them with the ideas with which they carry off this affair in France, and she would not give leave to depart to Lord Hay when he asked for it, saying that she wished him to be present at all that will be done, so that he may be able to bear witness to his king that they acted justly in all things.

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\* Windsor, see Nichols, *Progresses of James I.*, iii. p. 189.

1616.

The French ambassador resident here has not asked for audience again and has not been invited, but continues to complain of the wrong which he received, and allows himself to be overcome by wrath more than befits the service of his master.

London, the 16th September, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 16.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**434.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

Asks for the 50 ducats of which he wrote and for the 2 ducats 2 lire mentioned in his last despatch.

From London, the 16 September, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 16.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**435.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

I have received your letters of the 26th August this week. *I think the matter of the letters has been sufficiently proved. I have seen Nodari and satisfied him with 50 ducats, adding that the Ambassador Donato had instructions not to lose sight of him and that his services would always be valued and suitably rewarded. He expressed his willingness to serve and said he would place himself entirely at your disposition. He assured me that he had the means of showing his devotion in a matter of moment as he is to serve the prince of England in the new formation of his court. I told him of the satisfaction caused by the goodwill of Sir [William] Smith, asked him to thank him and say that his courtesy would greatly facilitate the recovery of his debt, and that something had already been done to that end. He will report all this to Smith, and he told me that the original deed of the loan was in the hands of the ambassador of England and that Smith wishes to know what course he must follow to gain his end.*

*In all this affair I have had to spend 152 ducats 2 lire, 100 to Forêt, 50 to Nodari, and the rest to Forêt's servant.*

From London, the 16 September, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Sept. 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**436.** To the AMBASSADOR IN ENGLAND.

We have just heard of the first action between the Spaniards and Savoyards on the 15th. This must lead to grave results.

Our forces on the frontiers of the archduke maintain their advantage. In Friuli the Proveditore General continually gains fresh ground on the enemy, who have withdrawn from some considerable posts.

We are still disposed to peace, in spite of their successes, although the negotiations for an agreement seem to be entirely broken off. The archducal party, and those who foment them, continue to show the same artifices in negotiating, proposing articles only to dismiss them. Recently when we accepted a point he objected and rejected his own article. We are, therefore, compelled to consider our own interests.

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The like to Spain, Mantua, Coire, Padavin, Dolci, Naples. Milan except the first paragraph.

Ayes 170.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

[Italian.]

Sept. 18.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**437.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*In my last I wrote about the affairs of the carazo, which they mean to be paid indifferently by the subjects of France, England, Flanders, and your Serenity. The ambassadors united together for defence, but the French ambassador, although he promised to join the others, withdrew, saying that he must speak freely with the Pasha on this matter and did not wish it to be prejudiced by other affairs. Feeling how prejudicial this might be, I made representations to him by his nephew, who agreed with me. Accordingly we decided to ask the Pasha to grant audience in the name of all four of us and make a joint complaint about the innovation, as being contrary to the capitulations, and showing how it would damage His Majesty's revenues. We obtained audience for the 10th inst, but they immediately repented and put it off, and the Borisi did not wish us to appear together. Accordingly I had audience alone on that day. I insisted upon the maintenance of the capitulations and showed how the royal income would lose by the diminution of the customs. The Pasha insisted that it was the king's will and he could do no other. He promised, however, that the unmarried merchants should not be molested. I also complained about the prohibition forbidding the Franks to cross from Pera to Constantinople.*

*The English ambassador went on the following day, and Flanders the day after to endeavour to obtain something more, but did not succeed. I do not know what will be the outcome, as the Pasha is not obeyed by this Cadi Moro, who is always introducing novelties; so that we never feel safe.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 18th September, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

Sept. 18.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**438.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*After the census of the Franks and Greeks in Galata had been completed, the Cadi Moro sent for all the dragomans of the ambassadors, declaring that they were subject to the carazo. He put one of them of the French ambassador in prison, for saying something in defence, and another one of England for no cause whatever. He also demanded admission to all the houses of merchants to see what was there, and having found a case of sword blades in the house of the Flemish merchant, he at once sent it to the Pasha, thinking it a sign of some evil intent. This and other causes made us resolve to return to the Pasha to make complaint. We decided to go all together and not to send and ask for an audience, and the French ambassador changed*

1616.

his mind and came in person. Accordingly we went to the Pasha on Thursday the 15th inst, at the Arsenal. We at once obtained admittance. The French ambassador spoke first, complaining loudly of the proceedings of the Cadi against the merchants, and that he could not have behaved worse to open enemies. If a remedy was not applied he said we should be forced to inform our princes, tell them that the capitulations had been broken and that it was impossible for us to remain here. We had been further forbidden to leave the city on horseback, so that we were shut up in it like prisoners. The Pasha replied that there was no intention of breaking the capitulations, which do not contain this particular, and that we enjoyed perfect liberty. The ambassador said we could not be tied to the express words of the capitulations, for example they said nothing about eating. The Pasha said the Cadi had visited the house because the king was told that there were 20,000 Franks in Galata, and he wished to assure himself; the dragomans were not covered by the capitulations which only referred to foreign subjects. The ambassador said the capitulations embraced all, and as there are some Jewish dragomans of England and Flanders they both took up the defence. This prejudiced the common cause, because it was necessary to speak of the dragomans in general. I also spoke and claimed that there ought to be no distinction between the married and the unmarried. The whole difficulty rested upon the point that princes would not suffer their subjects to become the subjects of others, and this was clearly contrary to the capitulations. The Pasha replied: They leave in a month and then everything will be settled. The argument continued, and we all said rather too much, but without any success, obtaining nothing more than I did at my first audience, namely, the exemption of the unmarried merchants. All we can do is to wait for the passing of this cloud. We must never cease to devise remedies, though this is difficult where reason has no part.

I am inclined to think that this Pasha is unwilling to proceed to extremities and the other ambassadors are not far from the same opinion, but they cannot decide upon anything; on the one hand it seems that it will be good to keep the capitulations intact, while on the other hand it is not to the public interest to allow these wounds to go uncared for while they are still fresh, as in time they might mortify; while if we all act together we might soon heal them.

At this point I hear that the Cadi interrogated the Dragoman Grande of England, who was such an Englishman that he passed before him and replied that in the ambassador's house he had precedence of him; the Cadi said: You recognize another master than the Sultan Achmed, and gave him forty bastinadoes, asking who was his master. Seeing matters take this turn he replied the Sultan Achmed. The Cadi Moro said: Now you answer so.

I greatly fear that harm will come to some of our dragomans, as they can find no safe way of escape from this dog. If they appeal to the Pasha it only makes matters worse.

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 18th September, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]



1616.

Sept. 18.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoy.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**439. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

I went yesterday to see the duke at Ziano. He gave me an account of the recent battle. He said he had allowed the Spaniards to enter Piedmont of set purpose, and would obtain many good results therefrom. The principal one was to interest his friends to support him *and especially the king of Great Britain, who had always promised to help if the Spaniards attacked him, and he hoped by him to obtain greater assistance from France.* It would rouse interest in his cause and expose the ambitions of those who aspire to nothing less than the monarchy of Italy.

Vercelli, the 18th September, 1616.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Sept. 19.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Constant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**440. ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*I intended to send off this despatch yesterday evening, but new matters have since arisen. I have already written that the Pasha promised me, and ratified this to the ambassador of France, England and Flanders, that the unmarried merchants should not pay. Now this Cadi, either out of his own head or by an understanding with the Pasha, pretends that unmarried merchants who have been here for two or more years shall pay the carazo, so that partly from fear, partly from violence all are subjected to this tyranny. The rascal protests that matters shall not rest here, that he knows all our interests well, and he will make me sweat for it. He is the worst man who has been in Constantinople for 200 years, and even the Pasha is afraid of him.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 19th September, 1616.

[*Italian ; deciphered.*]

Sept. 22.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**441. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.**

The enemy surrendered the fort of Fara to our troops on the 18th inst., saving their persons and baggage. They left behind three pieces of artillery and some munitions and food. They were all escorted to Gradisca and treated courteously, very differently from their own behaviour. The fort has been well garrisoned as the situation is valuable. The Proveditore General thinks of attacking the forts of Gorizia towards the Ponte Vecchio.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Constantinople, Milan, Naples, Florence, the Hague, Coire, Mantua.

Ayes 120.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 28.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**442. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

As I wrote a week ago, the ambassador of Savoy had audience of the king at Windsor, and spent nearly an hour with His Majesty. He had ample opportunity to fully execute the duke's instructions,

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relating all the most essential of recent events and coming to the particulars about assistance with all the skill and inveterate prudence of this minister, derived from his knowledge of His Majesty and the nature of the court.

The king received and heard him as graciously as possible, and with many interruptions of his argument and various remarks, he seemed to approve of the whole argument of His Highness, using expressions full of satisfaction and confining the principal matters with regard to help upon the following ideas. His Majesty had decided to write to the king of Spain and tell his ambassador resident there that he has no wish to break the peace with him, but that he is determined to help the duke of Savoy in conformity with his obligation, as it is not right that he should allow two powers friendly to him to fall, upon the pretext of this peace. That this weight of assisting the duke is very great, and, therefore, the more there are to join together to bear it, the lighter it will be. Accordingly he will induce the States and the princes of Germany to join with him in supporting these common interests. His Majesty allowed himself to be carried so far as to say that he has sufficient troops, and he can send to His Highness as many as any prince in Christendom, but that he has no money. The republic of Venice, on the other hand, has plenty of money, but no great quantity of men. His idea remained somewhat undeveloped, but possibly he wished to infer, by what the ambassador told me, that your Serenity should pay some money for the troops which he would send to Piedmont, and form a credit with this crown, to be subsequently extinguished by way of assignment or otherwise. To this the ambassador replied that your Excellencies were doing more than could be expected of you and it was necessary to consider your present necessity for expenditure, when you have upon your shoulders an army in Friuli, one in Dalmatia and one in Lombardy, while reinforcing the ordinary fleet and affording a considerable succour to the duke, and that you could not do everything by yourselves. In the end the king said that he could not give any reply for the present except that he should go and see the Secretary Winwood and do what he told him. With this the ambassador took leave. He at once saw Winwood and told him the same things. He was informed that he should draw up a document with all these particulars and the king would deliberate upon them. He did this on the following day and showed the document to Winwood. The latter advised him to make a more condensed and trenchant one which should make more of His Majesty's obligations under the treaty of Asti, since it was the king's intention to show it to the Spaniards and use it with them. Accordingly he drew up another form of request\* and presented both to Winwood, who informed the ambassador that he might return to London and he should receive the decision on Tuesday or Wednesday.

On the following Tuesday evening the king entered London and on Wednesday he proceeded to Wanstead, after first sending

\* A paper of 18 Sept. 1616, among the *State Papers, Foreign, Savoy*, at the Public Record Office, appears to be this document. A longer paper (3 pages instead of 25 lines) probably represents the earlier representation drawn up by Scarnafes, though it bears a later date.

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Winwood to the house of the Spanish ambassador to show him the second paper presented by the ambassador of Savoy, adding that His Majesty was obliged to keep his word and to succour the duke from the violence of Don Pedro of Toledo, contrary to reason and against the treaty of Asti, and that, therefore, he wished to notify his Catholic Majesty, as he did not mean by this to break the peace existing between their kingdoms. The ambassador replied to the Secretary: Tell His Majesty that I have orders from the king, my master, to go to him immediately and ask him for help against the duke of Savoy and to beg him, under his obligations, to see that the treaty of Asti is observed, as it is clear that the duke will not stand to it or carry out any part, wherefore, I ask you to obtain audience for me. With this Winwood returned to the king. His Majesty appointed the following day at Wanstead, which was yesterday, but an accident occurred so that it could not take place. His Majesty was out hunting yesterday morning, and having killed one buck, he desired to kill another, but unfortunately his horse fell under him and one leg struck the ground so hard that the spur broke in two pieces, and the king was somewhat hurt. To-day I understand that the leg is much swollen, and more harm might be done than was thought, as he is accustomed to suffer ill humours in his legs. Owing to this accident a gentleman was sent off, who met the Spanish ambassador on the road, and put off the audience until Sunday, the 25th of the month. Winwood has informed the ambassador of Savoy that the delay is due to this unlooked for event, and begs him to have patience and wait until Tuesday or Wednesday next for a resolution. The ambassador can do no less than wait upon the king's pleasure, but he spends the interval in that disquietude and searching of heart that every good minister must experience when he cannot perform an important service for his prince, which is only reasonable. In addition to this unexpected delay of a week he is very doubtful as to what decision will be taken, and has written to Turin everything which has taken place, *adding that if at the present time the king be not moved to some active steps, worthy of so many promises, His Highness may abandon all idea of obtaining anything effective from England.*

London, the 23rd September, 1616.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Sept. 23.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispaeci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**443.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The French ambassador is daily receiving letters from the Court with news of what is being done in that kingdom in the present movements, and he has instructions to inform the king of them. But he continues determined not to ask for an audience, and even though the king has recently offered his excuses, sending the master of the ceremonies to his house, he transmits the information by the Secretary Winwood. The king, being informed of everything by the letters of his ambassadors, has sent two or three couriers to Paris. He is disturbed at the detention of the prince and the danger in which he stands. Here very few

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believe the imputations against him, especially as it appears that all those who have had a hand in this affair have profited greatly and advanced their interests, especially the Princess of Soissons, who is the one, under the name of a great princess, who is mentioned in the declaration of his Most Christian Majesty, and the fall of Condé draws the prince, her son, nearer to the throne, rendering him the first prince of the blood. Another who benefits is the duke of Sully, who in the same declaration is introduced under a disguised name as publisher of the Councils of the Princes, and who has again obtained the queen's favour and the superintendence of the finances and other honours.

I have not hitherto been able to discover anything certain about what the king and ministers think about the reply given recently by your Excellencies to the Ambassador Wotton upon the question of a league, but I hope very shortly to obtain their full opinion. I can assure your Excellencies that His Majesty has heard with great pleasure of the successes of your arms in Friuli recently, and has testified it in very decided remarks. On the other hand he has displayed great displeasure on hearing that a Captain William Smith, an Englishman, had fought on the side of the archduke. I also was informed about this, that he was a man of good condition, of uncertain religion, that he had a considerable knowledge of the employment of artillery, and that he had been transferred from the service of the duke of Bavaria, of whom he was an old servant, to that of the archduke Ferdinand.

His Majesty has also discovered certain practices of the Jesuits in the present affairs against the service of your Excellencies; he has made a great deal of these, not only because they merit universal abhorrence in themselves, but also because they are of a nature that most wounds the feelings of His Majesty, and upon which he is most sensitive (*curioso*).

They are at present anticipating the sending of Lord Roos to Spain. He will not go with such pomp as Lord Hay did to France, although he is much the richer man, yet he is spending a great deal of money, and I know that a single coat is worth 32,000 crowns, owing to a rich embroidery of pearls. From the commissions and instructions given to him it will be possible to learn the king's intentions about the marriage.

I have received your Excellencies' letters of the 1st September, and shall make use of the information as directed. I thank you humbly for the provision of 10 ducats a month, and hope for an early opportunity of showing my devotion.

London, the 23rd September, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 23.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

444. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

Learns from their letters of 2 Sept. that hitherto all his letters have arrived safely. *Learns from his father that he has received 100 ducats on account of those paid to Forêt.*

From London, the 23 Sept., 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

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Sept. 24.

Senato,  
Secreta,  
Deliberazioni,  
Venetian  
Archives.

**445. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.**

Letters from Prague confirm that the archduke will not accept his own proposal. He dismissed all thoughts of an agreement, and prepared for war. The ambassador of Tuscany complained about such methods of procedure. His free speaking led to the despatch of another courier to Gratz, who will return with the reply in ten days; but no decision is expected. This is for information. His Majesty may see from these proceedings how far the archduke is removed from peace, and how all his thoughts are directed to war.

The like to Rome, France, Spain, Milan, Naples, Florence, Mantua, the Hague, Coire, Constantinople.

Ayes 163.

Noes 0.

Neutrals 0.

[Italian.]

Sept. 24.

Senato,  
Secreta,  
Deliberazioni,  
Roma,  
Venetian  
Archives.

**446. To the AMBASSADOR at ROME.**

With regard to the representation made by the pope about those who take the doctor's degree at Padua, privately, you will say nothing if he does not open the subject. If he does, you will say that no College has been founded for this, as he has heard, but as the privilege of the Counts Palatine to create doctors has been abolished, a single doctor has been allowed to do this to poor scholars and others according to the ancient constitutions. We have due regard in matters of religion. You will pass over the matter in these general terms. If he insists we may give you more particular instructions.

Ayes 158.

Noes 1.

Neutral 5.

[Italian.]

Sept. 24.

Senato,  
Secreta,  
Disposci,  
Roma,  
Venetian  
Archives.

**447. SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador in Rome, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

In addition to the usual irresolution of the king of England, in helping Italy with anything but words, I hear from a good source that it is highly probable that the solemn embassy sent to France by that king was rather to excite suspicion in the mind of the Catholic king with regard to the marriage in negotiation between one of his daughters and the English prince, than to actually come to terms with France, so that apparently no hopes of assistance from that quarter can be built on that foundation.

Rome, the 24th September, 1616.

[Italian.]

Sept. 29.

Senato,  
Secreta,  
Deliberazioni,  
Venetian  
Archives.

**448. To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.**

There has been no change on the frontiers of Friuli owing to the very bad weather and the swollen streams. In Istria, Barbaro has taken Verme with considerable booty. Nothing was left there

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except a tower, where some took refuge, the remainder was destroyed. This is for information.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, Spain, France, Savoy, Milan, Florence, Mantua, Coire, Naples, the Hague, Constantinople.

Ayes 187.

Noes 1.

Neutral 3.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. [80.]

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**449.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The affairs of Savoy at this Court are at present in such a position that whatever the count of Scarnafes does to receive due assistance from the king, the Spanish ambassador opposes both by public and secret offices. He does not even stick at advancing open falsehoods, to gain his ends, possibly knowing that they have some value here, and he protracts every deliberation of His Majesty which might prove advantageous to the affairs of Italy. The Secretary Winwood informed the ambassador of Savoy that His Majesty, owing to the pains in his leg, could not give audience to the Spanish ambassador last Sunday, the day appointed, but he would give him one on one of the following days and would afterwards see the ambassador of Savoy again and give him a reply in writing with his decision. The count of Scarnafes, after hearing this, employed the time in drawing up a third document, in which he maintained by many weighty arguments that it is patent to all the world that His Highness carried out the treaty of Asti, and that the Spaniards depart from the truth when they say otherwise. That the king of England may be informed about this not only by his ministers in Italy, but also by the assurances and testimony of all the princes in the world, and among others, the Most Christian King, by means of Sig. Claudio de Marino, and that the governor himself had confirmed it, having said many times that he kept his troops on foot solely by reason of the dispute between your Serenity and the archduke. The ambassador proposes to give this third document to His Majesty in order to remove all that the Spanish ambassador may have said to the contrary.

Meanwhile I have been watching the progress of events, and what good or evil may result from the decision of the king on one side or the other. I see clearly from some letters of your Serenity and especially from those of the 13th May, that you would like to see the duke succoured by the king here. Consequently I have had conference with Winwood, and I now think that the time is opportune to assist this work. Yesterday I went to see the secretary, my chief pretext being as I shall tell in my following letter. I began the conversation by saying that although I was sure that the king was daily advised by his ministers of the affairs of Italy, yet it was only reasonable that I should tell him that matters were now in such a state that the province was in imminent peril of losing its liberty, because, beyond a doubt, it contained more than 100,000 armed men, the greater part of whom are commanded by the governor of Milan, who intends, as he

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has declared, to suppress the two powers who alone maintain its liberty. If his projects succeed entirely or only in part, His Majesty may easily perceive how much harm the whole of Christendom would suffer and all these powers who value their own independence and flee from the monarchy of Spain. That this is, therefore, one of the most important matters which has ever been set before His Majesty, not only for his most prudent consideration, but for the exercise of the influence and power which God has conferred upon him for the public benefit and the preservation of his friends. That your Serenity and the duke will not fail themselves in any manner, but confident in the justice of their cause they are straining every nerve to defend themselves, and they are rendered stronger by being united in spirit and by a good understanding together. However, this is not sufficient, as the enemy is too powerful, while there are many who adhere to him either from love or fear, and thus increase the difficulties of defence. That in particular the republic has given and will continue to give considerable help to the duke in troops and a good sum of money, and that, not only by reason of old friendship and common interests, but also because since His Highness has fully carried out the treaty of Asti, as is known to all, it is contrary to reason that he should be unduly molested by Don Pedro. Consequently with the same readiness that your Serenity shows in helping His Highness, you would be glad to see him assisted by the powerful hand of His Majesty, as you feel sure that he would be, owing to past experience, the continuance of his friendship and the promise given at the treaty of Asti, to the great benefit of Italy, with the universal approbation of the world and to the immense glory of His Majesty.

The Secretary Winwood first answered what I had said before. Then passing to the others he told me the Spanish ambassador had been to audience of the king two days before, namely, Tuesday. He had assured His Majesty that the things which Don Pedro of Toledo was doing at present in the state of Milan had nothing to do with the breaking of the treaty of Asti, but with two other most important reasons: one the war which has broken out between the archduke and the Venetians, and the other a close and secret understanding and league, which the duke of Savoy concluded with the Venetians after the treaty of Asti, for which reasons it was necessary that he should do what he is doing for the service of the Catholic king. He also told the king of the new journey of M. de Bethune to Pavia to treat for a composition, and he left a copy of the reply made to Bethune by Don Pedro. Winwood added that in this state of affairs, and owing to the hopes of a good peace with which the English ministers in Italy encouraged the king by their letters, His Majesty did not wish to come to any immediate decision to help the duke, but had decided to await news of the outcome of Bethune's negotiations.

I replied that His Majesty's prudence could easily recognize how much artifice there was in what the Spanish ambassador said, as for whatever reason Don Pedro might keep the state of Milan armed, it was nevertheless done to the prejudice of the treaty of Asti, which ordained total disarmament. That of the two reasons which he adduced, I would submit the first, which concerned the

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republic, to the consideration of His Majesty, and he was quite sure of the unreality of the second, as he knows quite well that no fresh confederation has taken place between two powers since the treaty of Asti, but that the friendly relations between them arose from an ancient friendship, and for the other reasons which I mentioned above. But even granted that this news were true, I could not understand how or when your Excellencies and the duke of Savoy had so lost your liberty that anything which you might decide for the benefit of your states should be submitted to the decision of the Spaniards and be governed by their forces. This idea is full of imperialism and emits a general odour of the vast ambitions of the Spaniards and the superiority which they affect towards free powers, which of itself ought to persuade His Majesty to take a generous resolution to bridle its so much overweening pride.

With regard to the new negotiations of Bethune, I did not know what to promise myself, as the Spaniards seem determined to use force and to employ these interpositions and interruptions for their own advantage; but the surest way of causing the treaty to be respected and of re-establishing the peace of Italy would be for His Majesty to display by deeds his good-will towards the powers friendly to him, affording them his great and powerful assistance.

The secretary again replied that they hoped for peace and His Majesty wished to see the outcome of these negotiations. He then asked: What kind of help does your Excellency desire His Majesty to supply in Italy. Do you not realise how distant we are from that province, and that *amicus a longe non est amicus*. He repeated, What sort of help do you want. I replied that the king of Great Britain was so powerful and so great a monarch that he would have several ways of helping his friends, and there was not so great a distance between England and Italy that the powers could not help each other in case of need. He repeated his request for me to tell him exactly how his king could help Italy. I told him that His Majesty would not lack means to do what he desired, as he had abundance of men and money and of everything which renders a prince great and powerful. He ignored the point about money, but as regards men he said: Do you want these men by land or by sea. I said I thought they could more easily be taken by sea. The secretary objected. This is impossible, to send two or three ships would be to lose them. You would need a royal fleet to reach Italy and it is certainly impossible. As you know, this is an old idea of Winwood, peculiar to himself, that it is impossible to send men to Italy. I turned to say something in reply, but abandoned the idea, knowing how little good it would be, and that the last part of our interview was rather a friendly conversation than actual negotiations. However the prudence of your Excellencies will easily draw the right conclusions from it.

Since then I have visited the ambassador of Savoy this morning and told him what Winwood had said to me about the king's decision to postpone his decision upon the ambassador's requests. He had not then heard about this and was considerably put out,



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but he will not take any steps until he has been informed of everything officially.

London, the [30th]\* September, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Sept. 30.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

450. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The principal reason which I gave for going to find the Secretary Winwood yesterday at Theobalds, twelve miles away, was to hear how His Majesty was doing after his fall from his horse, and fulfil my duty in this respect. I understand that his leg really is somewhat affected and it may be a long business, but in spite of all, he will not lose an hour of his hunting, and as he cannot ride on horseback he either goes in a carriage or has himself carried. I begged the Secretary to thank His Majesty in the name of your Excellencies for the offices which I understood Lord Hay had performed in France, saying that you had welcomed the favourable decision of his Most Christian Majesty about the pass of the Grisons, whither your Excellencies had sent a Secretary and the outcome would appear.

I also told him what was going on in Friuli. He seemed to have information about everything and asked me what would be the end of these disputes with the archduke. I told him that God alone could see that, but so far as the judgment of man could discern there was reason to fear a long and serious war as the archduke seems determined not to effect that to which he is bound by every possible consideration. The secretary remarked that he was sorry to hear it and that everything might be arranged by an accommodation. I replied that your Serenity desired the same thing, and it was not you who had been responsible for the breach, and the question of accommodation did not rest with you, though you had always shown yourself ready for one if you could obtain the necessary security with it.

It has not been possible for me to obtain any hint of the manner in which Sir [Henry] Wotton has reported here the reply of your Excellencies, or how it was received by His Majesty. I wonder greatly at this silence which they adopt, as if they did not act thus from some particular motive, I should not only have gathered something from the means which I have adopted but Winwood himself, in the heat of argument, would have dropped some hint about it to the ambassador of Savoy or to me.

They have written for Lord Hay to return, so that he is expected soon. They have very slight hopes of the release of the prince of Condé, and rumours have been started that he is in delirium.

Lord Dingwall has returned to England, but as he has been little to court and afterwards returned home without coming to London I have not had an opportunity of calling upon him, as I shall do so soon as he arrives in this city, or, at any rate, I shall wait until he comes nearer than he is.

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This week the Council has dealt several times with the question of cloth, upon which this kingdom has a great controversy with the Dutch, who have issued orders that coloured cloths may not be imported into their dominions, as they wish to dye them themselves. They have introduced the art, which is proving very damaging to the English, and serious disturbances have taken place, which increase the dissatisfaction. I do not know whether they have found any remedy as yet, it will be tolerably difficult.

I have received the news of the taking of the fort of Lucinis in your Serenity's letter of the 9th inst. It has been immediately published to the great consolation of the servants of the republic.

London, the 30th September, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 1.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**451.** SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador at Rome, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Cardinal Borghese spoke to me about the affair of the doctors at Padua, who take their degree without first making a profession of faith. He begged me repeatedly to ask your Serenity to provide a remedy, as it was not a matter of state but of the soul which greatly concerned His Holiness, who had warmly recommended this office to him, as great harm might be done to religion. I pointed out that nothing new had been done, the university of Padua had acted thus for countless years and no scandal had ever arisen. A single doctor attended to this; the republic was most careful about religion, and nowhere could people be baptised by force. I do not say that, replied the Cardinal but I ask that the privilege may not be granted to those who do not profess our faith, as it may do great harm, and all the other powers will want to adopt the same measure in their universities. In my reply I confined myself to generalities.

The pope and cardinal seem to attach great importance to this affair. If the Senate can see their way to satisfy the pope in this matter I believe that it will be much to our advantage, as the Spaniards are trying to prejudice him against us as much as they can.

Rome, the 1st October, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 4.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Constant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**452.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*In spite of all representations and resistance it has not been possible to stay the execution of the tyrannical imposition of the carazo, which all the Frankish nations pay indifferently. The Pasha has shown great perfidy as he always gave fair words, but on the other hand he had an understanding with the Cadi, which has rendered the latter more violent. The Pasha promised me first, and afterwards the ambassadors of France, England and Flanders, that those who were not married and our dragomans should not be subject to pay the carazo, nevertheless the Cadi has never suspended its execution, and when our dragomans told him that this was not the intention of the Pasha, he replied, You have done all you could to stop me, I will do*

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*all I can to prevent you from succeeding, and we shall see which is the stronger, the word of the Pasha or the command of the king. The day after we had audience of the Pasha together the Cadi did no violence, but after he returned to Galata he showed more cruelty than ever, and some in order to avoid his violence came to pay of their own accord. It was really necessary as the Pasha was fomenting him. The English ambassador would not believe this and went to the Pasha with fresh complaints that his word had not been kept, and either the Cadi was despising his orders or he had not received any. He went so far as to say that if no provision were made he would leave with all the merchants. The Pasha replied, Do not worry, I assure you that your merchants shall pay nothing. The ambassador asked for an order in writing so that the Cadi should not raise further difficulties. The Pasha said, There is no need, leave it to me, I will send for him and all will be settled. In spite of all the ambassador said he would go no further. The ambassador also complained that the Cadi had taken an English slave from him, whom he had released some months ago, making him pay the carazo by force. He had also demanded a pietaria and because he would not pay it, threw him into prison. The Pasha promised to obtain his release, but he only did so three days later, at a reiterated request of the ambassador. For this he obtained an order in writing and he took umbrage because the Pasha would not give him one upon the principal affair of the carazo, as he felt that it was because they did not intend to satisfy him, as proved to be the case. The ambassador left, divided between doubt and hope, and decided himself to go to the Cadi Moro. He did this a day later in order to give the Pasha time to perform what he had promised. While he was on the way to the Cadi's house he met some of the Cadi's men who were coming to inform him that he must send all his merchants and dragomans to pay the carazo. The ambassador went to the house and asked to see the Cadi, and as the dragoman did not return with the reply, he went straight in. When the Cadi saw him he said it was useless to talk about the carazo, as his master meant it to be paid. The ambassador delivered a long and heated speech, but without any effect. The Cadi threatened to cut out the dragoman's tongue for talking in such fashion, and when he replied that he could do no other than repeat which was said, he grew the more angry, and declared that whether they would or no, all the merchants and dragomans should pay the carazo. The ambassador left much disturbed, but seeing that they had detained his dragoman, he returned and released him himself, declaring that he would not leave the spot unless the dragoman came too. After a long dispute, the ambassador saw that he could not resist violence and decided to pay the carazo for all his merchants and dragomans before he left the place, a thing which has dissatisfied many.*

*The beginning of these troubles was the census of the Franks; then the Moro decided to revive the old idea of the carazo, which Nasuf had tried and abandoned. This time he has the support of the Pasha, of the Bastangi Pasha and Tefta di Mufti, so that it is impossible to stop him from executing his plan. However, as nothing is ever entirely desperate here, I went to the houses of the ambassadors of England and Flanders, the more so because there are rumours that this order will be extended to Aleppo, to discuss what we should do.*

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*I found England somewhat disgusted, not with me, but with the other ambassadors; I said it would be well for all four of us to discuss what we could do to throw off this burden. He said that for himself he would discuss nothing just then. I pressed him with various arguments, but he would not consent. I believe that in addition to the reasons given above, he proposes to leave in three or four months and he intends to advise his king not to keep an ambassador here and not to permit his ships to come to these shores, as if they see that no ships come from France, England, Flanders or your Serenity, the ministers here would undoubtedly allow matters to resume their former course.*

*The ambassador of Flanders has a similar idea. I went the other day to call on the French ambassador and discussed the matter at length with him. He decided to do nothing until the Moro had finished his charge, which will be in a few days.*

*I feel that we must do everything to bring things back to their former state, and I will do all I can, either alone or with the other ambassadors.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 4th October, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

Oct. 4.  
Senato,  
Secreta,  
Dispacoi,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**453.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*I have been recently in the greatest difficulties that ever a bailo had to encounter, but praise God, everything has ended well. The facts are these: 67 bales of archenda were laded at Zante upon the ships Tigona and Martinella for two Englishmen to be consigned here to Mr. Arthur Gaucai, also an English merchant; all these bales had Turkish marks and were directed to Turks. When the ships arrived here and the bills of lading appeared with the note of these bales, I foresaw trouble for myself. However I sent for the notaries and asked them why they had laded this stuff which had clearly been plundered by pirates and sold at Zante, as they knew quite well that archenda is an herb reduced to powder which grows in Alexandria and not elsewhere, and which is consumed greatly here, and it was not credible that it would be sent from Alexandria to Zante to be transported here. It was also directed to Turks and therefore had clearly been taken by pirates who had sold it at Zante. I put things as strongly as I could to make them see their mistake and the danger in which they were placed. They excused themselves saying they had not thought about it and would not have acted so if they had known.*

*This archenda was above all the other things in the ship, and to avoid trouble at the beginning, I ordered that it should be placed last to see what could be done. I then sent for the English merchant and told him the difficulties he would be involved in and suggested that he should settle with the customs before the matter became public; I told him that he must not think of the goods as they would take them from him without more ado and it would be well if that were the end of the matter. He said he did not wish to take them, and though they had been sent by English merchants, yet they had bought them from an individual at Zante called il Cariati. I said I could not say if this were so or no, but admitting it to be true it would not help him; at present he had no part in the affair except that the goods were directed to him. He supposed that he would have no*

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trouble on this account and said : I do not want to lose the goods, and if you wish I will not say that they were bought from a person of Zante if you promise that if the goods are taken from me you will make the person pay who sold them to our merchants at Zante. In view of the importance of the affair, I promised, and certainly Cariatì deserves not only to suffer this loss, but to be punished. After this I gave leave for the archenda to be unloaded. It was placed in the street outside the place where the merchants pay custom. Trouble arose about it at once, all the blame being thrown on the Venetians. Finally the Pasha sent for Bonisi and accused him of piracy, and would have thrown him into prison. However, one of the attendants suggested that the Englishman to whom the goods were consigned should be sent for. He was brought and confessed that the goods had been consigned to him by two Englishmen, and he had paid the customs. The Pasha, seeing that the Englishman, by his own simplicity or because the Cadi wished to favour our interests, had accused himself, and that the Venetians had no part in the matter, was greatly annoyed because he expected to make a great profit out of this affair, and he vented all his spleen upon Bonisi. Then, as his disposition was much turned towards plunder, he immediately sent the Englishman to prison, as Mehemet Aga, his great favourite, had told him that this merchant has 100,000 ducats capital. This is true and he intends, so I hear, to fleece him, and so he says that the king has ordered the payment of 200,000 ducats, the value of the property upon the ships from which the archenda was taken.

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 4th October, 1616.

[Italian ; deciphered.]

Oct. 4.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**454.** PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

News comes from Seville that the fleet has entered the strait of Havana, and having thus passed the most dangerous nests of pirates, it is expected in that city by the end of this month. His Majesty has given orders for all the sailors upon the eight galleons brought by that fleet, to be detained, and I also hear that the royal ministers have recently taken away all the lead brought to Seville by ships from England, a very great quantity.

Madrid, the 4th October, 1616.

[Italian.]

Oct. 4.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**455.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Being rendered cautious by the late tumult at Delft, and knowing that an irritated people is not tractable, especially now there is no war, they have decided to continue the usual taxes, notwithstanding the payment of such a large sum to the king of Great Britain for the recovery of the cautionary towns, and the money for maintaining the French regiments.

The Hague, the 4th October, 1616.

[Italian.]

1616.  
Oct. 7.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**456. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

On Saturday evening the king's reply in writing was sent to the ambassador of Savoy upon his late requests. They are as follows : His Majesty is not only engaged in seeing that the treaty of Asti is carried out between His Highness and the governor of Milan, but has also endeavoured to secure its effectuation by his ministers in Spain and France, and recently through the offices of Lord Hay at Paris, the Most Christian King charged M. de Bethune a second time to make a new journey to Don Pedro of Toledo to try and settle the differences. In addition to this, as Lord Roos is about to go to Spain, to act as extraordinary ambassador to congratulate them upon the marriages, he has given him strict instructions to urge upon the Catholic king the execution of the treaty, and it is therefore necessary to wait and see the results of these offices. If they do not produce the results desired and it is clear that the failure comes from the side of the Spaniards, His Majesty will then endeavour to unite with the king of France to defend the duke of Savoy. In the meantime he exhorts His Highness to comport himself so that the Spaniards may have no reason to lay the fault of new disturbances on his back.

When the ambassador had read this reply he at once recognised the drift of the matter, that they not only refuse to execute at present their numerous promises, but have also deprived him of the hope of being able to obtain anything in the future, as the articles are so arranged that they may easily serve to drag things out, by the constant introduction of fresh pretexts, and at the end they will refuse every favour.

For this cause he went to see Winwood on the following day, and spoke to him very roundly about the wrong which was being done to His Highness, adducing many cogent reasons why His Majesty was bound to keep his word and not to defraud the duke of that assistance which he had offered in writing and by so many promises by word of mouth. He finally left a document with him which he begged him to give to the king, of which I enclose a copy. The secretary did not make the smallest reply to his long speech, he simply embraced him, begging him not to be so hot and telling him that possibly in order to unburden himself he should ask audience of the king and advance his arguments himself. He advised him, however, not to present the document, because being the length of a sheet, His Majesty would never read it for the half of his kingdom. In conformity with this advice the ambassador insisted upon speaking to the king, who has sent for him for to-day at Hampton Court, where the ambassador intends to speak with all freedom, reminding His Majesty of the obligation he is under and how he will lose reputation with all the world in not showing himself more ready to keep his word. He has also made an abridgment of the document which he left with Winwood, reducing it to a single page. At the end he adds this idea, that if His Majesty intended to help the duke, the favour would have been two-fold, in declaring his feelings on the subject to the Spanish ambassador, treating with him and showing him all the documents, as he has done, but if he has not the intention of doing anything. His Highness will manifestly suffer serious prejudice and

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be put at a great disadvantage, since the Spanish ambassador, by means of His Majesty, has come to know of the whole of this affair and has seen his documents, so that by these means the Spaniards will obtain some knowledge of the difficult position in which the duke finds himself, see how eagerly he asks for help and displays his weakness, while at the same time they may assure themselves that His Highness can hope for no alleviation from this quarter, all of which is very advantageous to them both for war and for peace.

He obtained this audience rather with the hope of relieving his mind of his just grievances by telling the king of his reasons, and in order not to fail in any point in the diligence and care which he owes to the service of his master than with any hope of inducing His Majesty to take a more stedfast resolution. After his return he will send the news to Piedmont, which he has not yet done.

The causes which have led the king of Great Britain to fail so openly in his obligations may very properly be laid before your Excellencies. *The chief are the daily increasing abhorrence which he feels for the toils and cares involved in government. In order to escape them he lives almost entirely in the country, accompanied by a few of his favourites, whose counsels, conceived in their own interests, are very remote from decisions involving expense and trouble. Another reason is His Majesty's powerlessness to incur any considerable expense unless he receives the material from parliament. He would summon it unwillingly, because as he cannot restrain his wonted liberality he has reason to fear greatly as it is certain that the people in general are dissatisfied owing to the manner of living which he has adopted for some time past. In proportion as his reputation continues to diminish abroad the dissatisfaction of his subjects keeps increasing and thus he is constrained to keep carefully at a distance the slightest prospect of a disturbance, to which this people is naturally disposed, and owing to the recent concurrence of certain events nothing seems wanting to cause an upheaval except suitable leaders (de' più particolare sono l'abborimento in che ogni giorno più va cadendo delli traragli et pensiero che porta seco il regnare, onde per schivarle se ne vive quasi perpetuamente alla campagna, accompagnato d'alcuni pochi suoi dilette, li consigli di quali per proprio loro interesse sono lontanissimi dalle resolutione di spesa et di traraglio, vi entra poi l'impotenza di sua Maestà la qual non può venire a spese di gran'momento se non le viene somministrata la commodità dal Parlamento, che da lui mal volentieri sarebbe chiamato, poi che non potendosi restringere la ordinaria sua libertà, ha occasione di molto temere, essendo cosa certa, che per il modo di vivere che tiene da certo tempo in qua, li popoli in generale ne restano mal contenti, et quanto va scemando la sua reputatione apposto li esteri, tanto si accresce la mala sodisfattione de'sudditi, e però è astretto di tener con ardentia lontano ogni principio di tumultatione, al quale essendo questi popoli per natura disposti, pari che à questi tempi vi concorre certi accidenti ch'è altro più non vi manche che capi di proposito).*

London, the 7th October, 1616.

[*Italian : the part in italics deciphered.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

457. To the answer given by His Majesty on the 18th inst., the Count of Scarnafes humbly makes the following reply :

His Highness is aware that His Majesty engaged himself by his ministers in Spain and in France for the carrying out of the treaty

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of Asti, and nothing remains but to confirm the obligation. His Highness returns thanks for what has already been done and for what Lord Roos is commissioned to do. At the same time he begs His Majesty to consider the expenses and the peril of His Highness, while time is being lost in discussion rather than in effecting what is known. If it is decided to enter into an examination, centuries will not suffice, since the Spaniards have never lacked excuses and pretexts. His Majesty has ministers everywhere, who must have informed him of the disarming of the duke and of the cavilling of the Spaniards from time to time until finally the pretext of the Venetians has made them openly obstinate in arms.

With regard to the negotiations of M. de Bethune, His Majesty may be sure that they will only serve to give the Spaniards time to increase their forces so as to be able to take Piedmont. But to wait upon the negotiations of Lord Roos will be the best way of bringing His Highness to extremity. Under the word of the two kings His Highness had to defend himself or to surrender. The latter is not to be thought of, and to remain simply on the defensive is ruinous. War would be a thousand times better.

With regard to His Majesty's exhortation to so comport himself that the Spaniards may not be able to lay the fault on his shoulders, His Majesty must allow that His Highness is naturally bound to defend himself, and as the weaker power he must make the most of every advantage. If he had attacked the Spaniards on the frontier and cut them to pieces as he could have done, the Marquis of Inoiosa would never have built the fort before Vercelli and Don Pedro could never have menaced him, but respect for His Catholic Majesty only renders his ministers more insolent. Moreover His Majesty may rest assured that even if the duke sleeps and allows his state and all that he has to be taken, the fault will always be his in the eyes of the Spaniards. Fifteen months ago the treaty of Asti was signed, and even the blind might see what His Highness has done, though they have the effrontery to pretend that he has not observed it.

With regard to the point that His Majesty promises to unite with France for the execution of the treaty, the Count of Scarnafes would point out two things, the first that France, as he has frequently told His Majesty will not move in favour of Savoy owing to her present Government and her interests with Spain; the other is that France has at least a colourable excuse because she always insisted that the duke should disarm under the promise of his Most Christian Majesty, alleging that the Spaniards would not attack him, their arming being caused by the Venetians. But His Majesty, on the other hand, has always advised His Highness to arm again, if the Spaniards did not disarm, when he would declare for the duke against Spain. This is a most important point for His Majesty's reputation, as it contributed powerfully to induce His Highness to arm again.

As it is simply a question of what His Majesty is willing to do, a new decision will be awaited in the hope that one will be taken worthy of a great king in virtue of the obligation undertaken at the



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treaty of Asti and private promises, such important interests being involved in the liberty of Italy and the relief of a prince who is so devoted a servant of His Majesty.

[Italian.]

Oct. 7.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**458.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

In one of their last conversations between the Count of Scarnafes and the Secretary Winwood, the latter remarked with some appearance of pain, that the Duke had made a league with your Serenity without saying anything about it to the king of England. The ambassador replied that His Majesty might be quite certain that this was not true, since he has ministers both at Venice and at Turin who could not have written to him so manifest a lie, and if such a league should be made it would be with His Majesty's knowledge and through his interposition, as through him the two powers were reconciled to each other. He then went on to tell him of the great pretensions of the Spaniards over all free princes, as they will not allow them liberty to treat together and come to an understanding.

The French ambassador has at length been to see the king, his dissatisfaction having been finally mollified by the master of the ceremonies. His Majesty spoke to him about the prince of Condé and made the usual representations, which I think will have little effect towards procuring his release. It certainly seems remarkable and is considered as a sign of contempt that the princes assembled at Soissons have not sent any one here to give an account of affairs and to ask for the king's help, since the last treaty was made under his promise. But the example of what His Majesty is doing for the maintenance of the treaties of Santen and Asti has deprived them of the hope of obtaining any advantage. It is said that the Marquis of Bonnavet, who has recently become a Huguenot, has about 600 horse in Picardy where he is doing some damage.

The Spanish ambassador continues to deprive of their pensions all the English Catholics who take the oath of allegiance to the king, saying that they cannot do it, and by doing so they render themselves unworthy of the favour of the Catholic king. Similarly the priests of his church do not admit such persons to the celebration of the mass, at least for the first days, in order to restrain others from a similar course by fear. The bad seeds might easily produce their fruit more quickly if the marriage is carried out which is so much talked about. (*L'ambasc. di Spagna. continua tuttavia a levar le pensioni a tutti quei Cattolici Inglesi che prestano il giuramento di fedeltà al re, dicendo che non lo possono fare, et facendolo si rendono indegni della gratia del Cattolico, et medesimamente i sacerdoti della sua chiesa non admettono questi tali al sacrificio della messa almeno per li prima giorni, per ritener con questo timore gli altri da simil risoluzione, li quali cattivi semi potrebbero tanto più presto produr i loro frutti quando si effetti quel matrimonio, del qual tanto si parla.*)

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The superb funeral of the Earl of Shrewsbury is over, who died four months ago.\* It cost 70,000 crowns owing to the banquetting which lasted for a fortnight, to many thousands of persons, and the clothing in mourning of three to four thousand persons, with many other costly things. The brother and the wife of the deceased are now disputing about the rich inheritance of 100,000 crowns a year and more. Recently they came out into the field with well armed forces, and even went so far as to exchange cannon shots, but it is thought that the strife will proceed reasonably by the king's interposition (*questi giorni sonno uscite in campagna con buon genti armati, essendosi fino battuti col canone, si crede però che con la interpositione del re si lascerà seguir la litte per via di ragione*).

Lord Dingwall is in London, so seriously ill that when I sent yesterday to enquire how he was, he was considered to be dying, to the great sorrow of the king.

His Majesty has not yet entirely recovered from the fall from his horse and may possibly suffer more discomfort this winter than he would desire.

London, the 7th October, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 7.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.

Lettere agli  
Ambasc.  
d'Ing.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**459.** The INQUISITORS OF STATE to GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England.

We have given orders for the repayment to your father of the rewards paid by you to the Frenchman and Nodari, as notified in your letters of the 9th and 16th ult. We are satisfied with your diligence and judgment. We will instruct the ambassador Donado, when the time comes, to recognise the services of Nodari.

We have received from Muscornio the money due to Sir [William] Smith, and will arrange for its payment.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 7.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.

Dispaaci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**460.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

*Acknowledges letters of the 16th ult. Nothing further of importance in this matter. Will investigate whether any other public document is at present abroad in this country.*

From London, the 7 Oct., 1616.

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

Oct. 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**461.** To the AMBASSADOR at ROME.

In the matter of those who take the doctor's degree at Padua privately you will tell the pope that the republic is always zealous for religion. It was simply ordained that in place of the Counts Palatine who used to grant the degree privately, one of the doctors of Padua should do so for those who cannot incur the ordinary expenses out of regard for His Holiness will make special enquiry

\* He died on 8 May and was buried on 13 August, 1616, at Sheffield. G.E.C. *Complete Peerage* vii. p. 141.

1616.

whether these commissions of the republic have been transgressed. and we assure him it is not our wish that heretics should receive the doctor's degree at Padua. You will speak to Cardinal Borghese to the same effect.

Ayes 94.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**462.** To the AMBASSADOR at ROME.

The pope has proposed to intervene for a suspension of arms between Spain and Savoy, to include a promise from the Spaniards not to molest our republic. We beg you to thank His Holiness. At the Imperial Court the craft of those ministers becomes continually more apparent; the archduke does everything to avoid a settlement.

In Friuli, in spite of the weather, our troops have taken Vipulzano, after a long resistance.

In Istria our troops raid and capture considerable booty.

The like to Savoy, France, Spain, Milan, Florence, Mantua, Naples, Coire, the Proveditore beyond the Menzo, England, the Hague.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 10.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Padova.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**463.** The RECTORS OF PADUA to the DOGE and SENATE.

Yesterday evening the duke of Saxony arrived here on his way to your Serenity. We received him with every demonstration of honour and courtesy. He has come to offer his services to your Serenity, being advised to do so by all the Protestant princes and also by the king of Great Britain, to whom, he says, he first imparted his purpose, and they all promised to help him in executing his design. He will leave here to-morrow.

Padua, the 10th October, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 11.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**464.** OTTAVIO BON and VICENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The English ambassador extraordinary, after a stay here of two months, has received presents and been entertained royally, for four days, and then returned to his king. He received a very fine jewel from the king and a valuable diamond from the queen, altogether, they say, worth 10,000 crowns. He takes back no decision about the marriages, as the affair has evidently been approached with great coldness on both sides, with little inclination to proceed further.

Paris, the 11th October, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

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Oct. 13.  
Collegio,  
Ceremoniale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**465.** The English ambassador came into the Cabinet accompanied by Prince Francis Julius, duke of Saxony. The ambassador sat on one side above the senior councillors, and the duke on the other. The ambassador offered the service of the duke. After they had gone orders were given to offer them entertainment at the cost of 50 ducats.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 13.  
Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**466.** The ambassador of England came into the Cabinet accompanied by Prince Francis Julius of Saxony and said that he would act as interpreter, because the prince was not yet familiar with the Italian language. He added: I have come to execute the commands of His Majesty, accompanying Prince Francis Julius, who offers his services. He has served for some time in the court of His Majesty, who has encouraged him in this purpose, as have other princes of Germany. The King sends the following letter:

Jacobus etc. Domino Joanni Bembo, Venetiarum Duci, amico nostro charissimo, salutem.

Franciscus Julius, Saxoniae dux, antea nobis in Aula nostra cognitus, nuperrime nobis consilia quedam sua communicavit, quae nos tum a generosissima hominis indole, tum a singulari in Rempublicam vestram propensione proficisci existimamus; cupere se scilicet, cum dubiam vobis vicinorum vestrorum amicitiam intelligat, si militaribus copiis Reipublica vestra indiguerit mille equitibus, aut mille quingentis pedibus vobis adesse prout electio vestra fuerit. Hoc hujusmodi sua studia in presens tantum deferit, avet insuper in posterum stipendia sua continuare, quotiescumque rebus vestris usui esse possit. Quo in loco presentes res vestrae sint, quo ad pacem attinet, cum nobis non constet certe amicitiae nostrae esse putavimus, vota ejus vobis impensius commendare; gnari tanti Principis amicitiam operamque magno vobis usui futuram, tum ob gentis et familiae suae claritatem et egregium in Imperio locum, tam ob singularem animi affectum quo nos eum merito suo semper prosequimur. Quas quidem ob causas, ut nos minime diffidimus quin haec ipsius consilia per quam grata vobis futura sint: ita quoque speramus propter commendationem nostram potiores vos Principis Illustrationem habituros, quod ipsum vobis spondemus, quandocumque in simili Re consimile studium nobis deferetis.

Datum e Palatio nostro Westmonasterii 2<sup>da</sup> die Julii, Anno D<sup>ni</sup> 1616.

Jacobus Rex.

After this letter was read the ambassador added: Your Serenity sees how readily His Majesty moves in all that concerns your service. Many offers have been and will be made, but none greater than this. If you choose, the prince can bring 2,000 horse or 8,000 foot, whichever you prefer. It is remarkable that a prince should offer his service who is a neighbour of the house of Austria and is important by reason of his relations with the count Palatine and other princes of Germany. Yesterday in conversation I asked him how he would manage to bring these troops. He said, although the pass of the Grisons is not so open as might be desired, yet I will ask a passage of them for myself and the electoral house of Saxony, and aided by the favour of the other princes of Germany, I feel sure that I shall not be denied. Your Serenity will see that I have not neglected to draw his attention to essential points.

1616.

In the absence of the doge, the senior councillor Nicolo Donado replied: We are deeply indebted to His Majesty for his constant care for our service. We beg your Excellency to thank His Majesty and to assure the prince of our esteem for his offer. After the matter has been considered, we will give a reply.

The ambassador said: As I have to change house, I shall be away for five or six days. I leave here the prince and the Secretary Gregorio. He understands Italian, though he does not care to speak it, not being so familiar with it as with French and Latin. The prince then added a few formal words in French, and after Donado had replied the Secretary and four other gentlemen of the prince were introduced to make reverence.

Afterwards the ambassador, the prince and the others made a reverence and departed.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 14.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**467.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The ambassador of Savoy went on Friday to Hampton Court to audience of the king, as I wrote that he would do. While he was awaiting His Majesty's convenience in the apartments of the Lord Chamberlain the Secretary Winwood came to him, being sent by the king, as appeared afterwards. He began to speak to the ambassador about the sincere good-will and affection which His Majesty bore towards the Duke of Savoy, and he also spoke in the same strain about the Count of Scarnafes, whose merits he praised highly, especially the modesty with which he had always borne himself at this Court. By such means he sought to assuage the first feeling which he might imagine the count would display to the king in the coming audience upon the reply given to him in writing.

After this he was introduced to the king and found him seated, owing to his bad leg, with a watch in his hand which he kept looking at and trifled with during the whole of the time, showing that he himself was conscious of the inadequacy of this reply. The ambassador had a long interview, and beginning at the beginning he spoke of the present state of Christendom, which is divided into three great monarchies. One, namely Spain, simply seeks aggrandisement by the ruin of inferior powers, who can hope for little from France, which is the second, and therefore they must have recourse to the king of Great Britain, who is the third, so that he may divert the evil by his power. In this way His Majesty is bound to think of the condition of Italy. His promise constitutes another obligation, no less binding, and the ambassador reminded him of all that had taken place, touching upon the things which the duke might reasonably expect from His Majesty, and how different was the purport of the replies which had been given to him. He supported his arguments with many words of great feeling.

The king replied, also at considerable length, that he recognised the obligations which he was under to the duke, but as a great king he was very subject to the censure of men, and therefore he

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desired that his actions should be thoroughly justified before the world and he did not wish to commit himself for His Highness unless his reasons were very clear, and therefore he wished to await the result of Bethune's negotiations. To this the ambassador replied that Bethune would do no good, and before many days had passed the news of this would arrive here. I think the same, said the king, and the sooner I am likely to know it, the less harm is it for me to await it, and after various replies he said: In what way can I help the duke when he is in need? The ambassador replied: Owing to the greatness of the prince, who is making war on my master, everything is necessary, especially money, men and munitions.

With regard to money, His Majesty replied, you know well that it is scarce with me and I cannot give any, men also are very difficult, and as for munitions, what kind and how much do you want? The count replied: War, Sire, is a gulf, which consumes everything, and therefore His Highness needs every kind of munitions and in very large quantity, such as powder, rope, artillery, lead and balls. To this the king said that in order to show how greatly he was disposed to succour the duke, and that he did not wish to delay carrying this out, he asked him to draw up a list of the munitions he required, both in quantity and quality, and to give it to Winwood, who would look at it and do whatever he could. On the following day the ambassador drew up a list of all the things mentioned above without any definite quantity and gave it to the Secretary Winwood, who promised to give him a reply in a very few days. Accordingly he sent for him yesterday evening, and told him that His Majesty had seen the list and had given orders to the Keeper of the Tower to bring him another list of all the munitions under his custody, because he wished to share them with the duke of Savoy, and in two or three days he would see what could be given. A few days ago I was in the Tower and went to see all the munitions there. They seemed to me very poor, so that I cannot persuade myself that the king's assistance, being reduced to powder, ropes and balls, will be anything worthy of consideration.

The English ambassador writes from Paris that he has made new representations to the Queen Mother in the interests of Savoy. She told him that everything originated with Don Pedro of Toledo, who was a fiebrand of a fool's humour; she had sent Bethune to him, but it had been of no use, and she gave orders to Marshal Lesdiguières to take 8,000 infantry to succour His Highness, believing that these, when added to his own forces, would prove sufficient for his defence.

Lord Roos has finally set out on his journey to Spain. The principal object of his mission is to offer congratulations upon the marriage. In addition to this he has orders to speak freely and openly for the duke of Savoy. With regard to the particulars about the marriage of the prince here, nothing definite is known about his instructions; it is certain that he will treat about it, with what results God alone knows.

London, the 14th October, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

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Oct. 14.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**468.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONEILLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I know on good authority that the marriage in negotiation in France between the second princess and the count of Soissons does not at all please the king of Great Britain, not only because he is shut out from that alliance, but because it is by no means agreeable to his greatness that a subject so inferior should be proposed at the moment when his extraordinary ambassador is at Paris with commissions to negotiate for the prince his son. The ambassador of Savoy came to see me the other day in this connection and told me an idea of his, begging me to communicate it to your Excellencies; to see if you approved. I do so rather because of my duty to keep you informed of everything that comes to me than from any obligation to write about it which I am under to the ambassador, or because I think it will please you. He began by telling me that he fears we shall lose the king of England for good, because as he is shut out from the marriage with France he will have to resolve upon that with Spain, which will not only separate His Majesty from the common interests, but the prince, through the influence of his wife will incline to the other side throughout his life, and the children, who will have Austrian blood in their veins will be more than ever tied to the Catholic king and their descendants likewise. Thus we are forced to believe that England, for at least two or three generations will separate from this good union and will join the other side. *He had the king's promise that if he did not give the prince a French wife he would give him an Infanta of Savoy, but in the present state of affairs here, they want money, and that is the chief reason which attracts them to the Spaniards. The duke indeed has none, or he would do his very utmost to obtain some amount from his people to give to the prince, with a promise to make it up at a future time. He suggested that your Serenity, to assist this excellent work, might open up these negotiations with the king and accommodate him with something as a loan, with the certainty of being repaid. I made no other reply except that the present time, in which the republic was involved in so much expense seemed to me to be very inopportune for treating of affairs of this nature, and began to speak of something else.*

*Lord Hay has gone to Dieppe, but he will not cross the sea unless he is taken by one of the king's ships. Accordingly he is staying there for some days. It seems that this journey of his has been very unfortunate and that he has brought back little satisfaction. He has not increased the reputation of his king in the least and has in nowise strengthened the friendly relations with the Most Christian king, so that his embassy has rather proved pompous and expensive than of the slightest utility.*

The Spanish ambassador resident here sent a courier to the Catholic king three days ago together with his confessor. There is no doubt but he has sent word of all that has taken place here, both the affairs of Savoy and the mission of Lord Roos. Nevertheless the sending of the confessor excites surprise, the more so because it is understood that the Archduke Albert also sent his confessor to Spain recently, as the Spaniards are not accustomed to send such men about without some profound mystery.

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I have received your Serenity's letters of the 22nd ult. with news of the taking of the fort of Fara.

London, the 14th October, 1616.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Oct. 15.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**469.** To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

The negotiations at the Imperial court continue in the same state; the archduke being more than ever determined on war. We have to record the death of Sig. Pompeo Giustinian, who was shot while making a reconnaissance.

The like to Rome, France, Milan, Florence, Savoy, Mantua, Naples, Coire.

Ayes 108.

Noes 1.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 15.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**470.** SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador at Rome, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I saw the pope yesterday about the matter of the doctors at Padua. I told him that the new regulations were in place of the old privilege of the Counts Palatine to grant degrees, which had been abolished. It had simply been done for the benefit of poor students and Greeks. It was not your intention to give the degree to heretics and your Serenity would see that your orders in the matter were respected. The pope said he was very glad that the republic promised not to give the degree to heretics unless they made the profession of faith, but schismatics were on the same footing, as schism is a kind of heresy, and consequently the Greeks should also profess. I represented the danger of this. He asked me how long was it since the privilege of the Counts Palatine was abolished. I said, five or six years. He asked what the Greeks and others did in the meantime. The Counts Palatine took the profession of faith, but the new doctor does not; this is the innovation. I promised to make due representations to your Serenity. Finally he rose and said softly to me, We ask this satisfaction also in order to shut the mouths of some who speak to us about the matter.

Rome, the 15th October, 1615.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 18.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Brescia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**471.** The RECTORS OF BRESCIA to the DOGE and SENATE.

The father Inquisitor here has asked that the enclosed list of prohibited books may be published in this city and posted in public places. He said the note had been sent by the Father Inquisitor of Venice. We agreed to do this after it had been submitted to the congregation of the holy office in our presence.

Brescia, the 18th October, 1616.

[*Italian.*]



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Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**472. NOTE of the PROHIBITED BOOKS.**

"Theologiae Calvinistarum libri tres, auctore Conrado Schlussemburgio."

Isaaci Casauboni de rebus sacris et ecclesiasticis exercitationes xvi ad Cardinalis Baronii prolegomena in Annales ex officina Nortoniana, apud Jo. Bellium, 1614."

"Gravissimae questionis de Christianarum Ecclesiarum in occidentis praesertim partibus ab Apostolicis temporibus ad nostram usque aetatem continua successione et statu historica explicatio. Auctore Jacobo Usserio sacre Theologiae in Dulbiniensi Academia apud Hybernos professore."\*

"Nicolaus Copernicus de revolutionibus orbium coelestium donec corrigatur."

"Donelli Enucleati sive Commentarius Hugonis Donelli de Jure Civili in compendium ita redactorum etc."

Oct. 19.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Constant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**473. ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*The English merchant is still in prison, because the Pasha demands 20,000 sequins of him. He professes to be letting him off easily, saying that he might have made him pay the whole of the damage suffered by the two ships which were taken, amounting to 200,000 ducats. They are inflicting numerous torments upon the merchant, as they know he is very rich, and they even threaten him with death. The Pasha, to remove any imputations against himself, says that he will employ the money for the release of slaves. The English ambassador has done his utmost to obtain the merchant's release, and he would even spend a considerable sum of money, but the Pasha's pretensions are too high. He asked that the cause might be tried, but the Pasha refused, saying that the king commanded the payment of all the money lost by the two vessels.*

*As I suspected there might be a great quantity of similar property at Zante, brought by English and Flemish ships, I immediately sent a man post to the Proveditore, telling him of what had happened and advising him to prohibit under severe penalties the sale of such plundered goods.*

*Your Serenity should secure the detention of Cariati, to obtain the value of the archenda from him, even if you do not punish him as he deserves, in order to redeem the promise which I made to the English merchant by which the public was saved from great trouble and expense.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 19th October, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

Oct. 21.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**474. To the AMBASSADOR in England.**

We heard on the 16th inst. of an important engagement between the Spaniards and Savoyards near the abbey of S. Lucedio, in which the Savoyards lost 3,000 men, while the Spaniards claim

\* By James Usher, successively bishop of Meath and archbishop of Armagh. This work was printed at London in 1613.

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not to have lost more than 200. But on the 19th the Ambassador Donato, who had been with the duke's army, sent word that the duke's losses do not exceed 160. The governor had only engaged the rear guard of 4,000 men.

The General in Dalmatia has recovered some barques and slaves taken by the Uscochi; and in Istria our troops have won an engagement. In Friuli some Uscochi and men of Carlisfot made a raid, but only took one cart; on their return they were attacked and some killed. General Priuli attacked the Ponte Vecchio at Goritia successfully.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Savoy, Florence, Mantua, Milan, Naples, Zurich, the Hague, Constantinople, the General of the forces, the Proveditore beyond Menzo.

Ayes 114.

Noes 1.

Neutral 11.

[Italian.]

Oct. 21.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**475.** To the KING of GREAT BRITAIN.

The events of Istria are in such a position that they desire to be specially represented to your Majesty. We have, therefore, directed the Secretary Giovanni Battista Lionello to inform you of them in our name, as a sign of our continued confidence and esteem.

Ayes 120.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

[Italian.]

Oct. 21.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**476.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Owing to the understanding that the count of Scarnafigi obtained recently from the king and ministers that he should at least have some quantity of munitions to help the duke, he went this morning to see the Secretary Winwood, who returned from Court two days ago, to hear His Majesty's decision about these particulars. The Secretary told him that His Majesty *had considered the matter deeply and it seemed to him that so small a help in munitions could only prove of feeble use for the necessities of His Highness, and would not suffice for the fulfilment of the obligation which His Majesty recognized that he had incurred by the treaty of Asti. He had accordingly come to a better decision, to suspend for the moment the grant of the munitions and on his arrival in London in a few days he proposed to enter the Council of State or to send for its principal members and acquaint them with his obligation to succour the duke effectirely, not only because of the treaty of Asti, but in the interests of all Christendom, on which account he was resolved to openly declare himself the enemy of the Catholic king if he did not keep his promises better, and to declare war upon him. But meanwhile, in order that matters may mature and*

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that the king may proceed with a greater show of justice, he asks the count of Scarnajigi to send someone to Piedmont to observe the present state of affairs, so that he may the better base his deliberations upon his report. The Count replied that all this was good and he was delighted that the king had taken this decision, which was due to his obligations and his greatness, but that in order to do one thing it was not necessary to leave undone another, and while they were debating, in Italy fighting was going on, so that it was not advisable to abandon the grant of provisions for this new idea, but it would serve as a prelude to the declaration of His Majesty and would prove most useful to continue from this beginning. They arranged between them that the Secretary Winwood should write to the king to-day, expecting a reply the day after to-morrow, which would settle what was to be done in the matter of the munitions and whether anyone should be sent to Piedmont immediately. If I had not seen and noted their desire to keep alive hopes in the midst of perpetual delays, I should think that some moderate results might ensue from these words but from experience of past affairs my hopes are not raised high. I am inclined to fear that the ministers here, perceiving the scarcity of munitions which they have in the Tower, so that they cannot supply a reasonable quantity to Savoy unless they buy it from merchants for cash, have found this new means of postponing a resolution, since if they now send anyone to Piedmont it is certain that he cannot return before the winter is well advanced, at which time fighting will be stopped by the bad weather and they will gain some months here during which they may see what negotiations are proceeding. If the disputes have not ceased by the spring, they will not lack new pretexts. Nevertheless, when the ambassador of Savoy communicated to-day's conversation to me half an hour ago, I could not refrain from saying that I thought it superfluous to send anyone to Piedmont, as in addition to the loss of time I did not see what advantage could be obtained, since His Majesty had special ministers there, but I think it worse that the mission should be performed by the ambassador as it would have greater reputation and would cause less prejudice if it were commanded by the king himself. The ambassador thought my opinion good, but as he had already pledged his word to Winwood, it was too late to draw back. He told me that the Secretary Winwood had said to him several times, and this morning in particular, in a tone of complaint, that a considerable part of these misfortunes were due to your Serenity for refusing the proposals made by His Majesty more particularly in the lifetime of the Ambassador Barbarigo, to make a league for an offensive war against the Spaniards if they failed in their obligations. There is no doubt that he said all this to excuse himself as best he could for so much coldness, though I did not fail to make a proper reply to the ambassador, showing that there were a thousand reasons for disproving the idea.

London, the 21st October, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Oct. 21.  
Senato,  
Secreta,  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**477.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The letters of Don Pedro of Toledo to the Spanish ambassador resident here speak as if your Serenity and the duke of Savoy were under his orders. He says he has inflicted a great defeat upon His

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Highness and by feigning himself sick he gave him courage to come out into the open, when he encountered and routed him, so that he hardly escaped, and left the country free. Of your Excellencies he says that you are at the end of your financial resources and in great scarcity so that you are endeavouring to manage as best you can with your own citizens. The Spanish ambassador arranges that these advices shall be spread about through the city leaving the minds of men very perplexed at what they ought to believe. One thing that excites wonder is that Sir [Henry] Wotton writes very rarely from Venice, and it is seven weeks since they had a letter from him; the king is very angry about it and Winwood commented severely upon such negligence in speaking to Mr. Morton, Wotton's nephew.\*

I am told on good authority that one of the principal reasons for the journey of the Spanish ambassador's confessor to Madrid is to procure money, the ambassador being considerably in debt, and it is necessary for him to be liberal in present circumstances with those to whom gifts are of use.

Lord Hay arrived in England on Monday and proceeded immediately to court. On the preceding day Lord Roos left London on his way to Plymouth, to take a royal ship to Spain. I must not omit to advise your Excellencies that this individual both by education and habit is entirely Spanish so that his embassy may be expected to be perfectly to the taste of the Spaniards. Although they know him to be very light brained yet they will not omit to make use of him whenever it is to their advantage to do so.

On the 4th of next month the title of Wales will be given to the prince of England with great pomp. Although the ceremony will not rival that of his deceased brother, yet they will spend money by handfuls. I do not know if your Excellencies wrote congratulatory letters to the prince upon that occasion, but think it would be a good thing to do now, to cherish in him as friendly a disposition as possible towards the republic.

I have just received your Serenity's letters of the 24th and 29th ult. which I will use for information and for the public service.

London, the 21st October, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 22.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**478.** PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have communicated to the secretary of England the recent events in Friuli and the negotiations at the Imperial Court. He thanked me and said he was sure they cherished more ill will towards the republic than against others, though they concealed it artfully. He did not think they would try at present to occupy the states of your Excellencies, as that would be too difficult. If they were sure of being free from the war with Saroy, they would give the archduke armed assistance and help him to obtain better terms. This affair preoccupies

\* At the Public Record Office there are no letters of Wotton to the king between Aug. 4 and Oct. 1, but he wrote several times to Winwood, the most recent in date at the time of Lionello's despatch being of Sept. 9, 1616.

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them greatly; the ministers had told him that they greatly desired the archduke to come to terms, but your Excellencies imposed too onerous conditions. The secretary Frisa, he added, had complained to him because his king had sent many men to help the republic. He had replied that he had no special news of this, but if men from England entered the pay of the republic, his king could not prevent it, as his nation had always enjoyed this privilege of going to any part of the world to seek their personal profit. When Frisa objected that these men had obtained leave from the king and council, the secretary replied that the republic was not making war on the king but on the archduke, so that His Majesty had no cause to complain of the English help. Frisa said that the king was closely tied to the archduke and esteemed his interests as his own, and thereupon England ought not to foment the republic, as His Majesty only desired to establish universal peace.

I thanked the secretary for this information and said I was glad he had noted the ill will of the Spaniards towards the republic, as when reported to His Majesty it would induce him to decide to act according to his greatness and the general interests. I said your Excellencies had done nothing to arouse this feeling in the Spaniards, but it was most unfortunate as it led them to endeavour to deprive the republic of the means of providing for her own defence.

Madrid, the 22nd October, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Oct. 25.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**479.** OTTAVIO BON and VICENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The English ambassador here, who really seems devoted to the interests of Savoy, having heard that the duke of Guise was working for the Spaniards, went to see him this week and gravely expressed to him the feelings of his king and how grieved he would be to hear of this action of advancing the interests of Spain. He protested that the duke, who is a relation of his king, seems indifferent to His Majesty's good opinion and continually opposes his pleasure and service, the king being so interested in the preservation of the duke of Savoy. He told the duke that he was losing credit daily by those operations both within and without the kingdom. The duke recognised the truth of this and was somewhat confused. He excuses his action in ways which cannot be approved by impartial observers.

Paris, the 25th October, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 25.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**480.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Resident at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The consul of Lecce advises me by letters of the 15th that the berton Colletti from Candia arrived from Brindisi with some soldiers on board when the Governor of Lecce detained it, removed the sails and imprisoned the master. I went straight to the Viceroy to complain. His Excellency seemed very angry and gaye

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instructions for its immediate release. As I was coming out I met the secretary Velli who on hearing these orders said that he must first see His Excellency. He stated that the Governor of Lecce had sent the articles of accusation. Some said that the ship came from England, some from Candia, some said the troops were to go against the Uscocchi, others against the house of Austria while others again said they were to help Savoy, and so the governor had acted quite correctly. However the order was sent off that same night.

Naples, the 25th October, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 25.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**481.** That the Ambassador of England be summoned to the Cabinet and the following read to him :

The affairs of Italy are in such a condition that His Majesty should be fully informed about them. At the treaty of Asti His Majesty employed his great authority for the peace of Italy, guaranteeing that settlement with his own name and inciting the republic to do the same. We have not only done much to assist the duke of Savoy, but we are certain that His Majesty will do the same on his side. It is certain that the duke has fulfilled his part of the treaty of Asti as Marini, the minister of France clearly testified. All the trouble proceeds from the fact that the Spaniards will not observe this treaty, but have entered Piedmont with a large army and are determined to bring force to bear on the duke. They have also kindled against him the duke of Nemours, his cousin, having bought him with money. During the disturbances in France they are threatening our republic also, and aspire to a pre-eminence which may throw everything into disorder and occasion grave perils. Your Excellency may be well informed of all this, but the ministers of Spain in England put a different face upon things to their own advantage. They maintain that an arrangement and peace are almost certain, and yet your Excellency is aware that the transactions of M. de Bethune have already been interrupted for several days, his negotiations are ended and there remains no opening or hope for an agreement, but they expect nothing but force. At the same time the Spaniards use every artifice to prevent any accommodation between us and the Archduke Ferdinand, while they support him with paid troops and money. We beg you to represent all this to His Majesty, and our Secretary Lionello will do the same, as we are sure that he will feel great displeasure at this state of affairs.

Ayes 114.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 26.  
Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**482.** The deliberation of the SENATE of yesterday was read to the AMBASSADOR OF ENGLAND, and re-read at his request. He then said :

I thank your Serenity for the confidence with which you favour me in such grave matters. The Spaniards certainly seem to be

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carrying matters with a high hand (*con grande ardore et vantaggio*). I am sure that my master will not fail in his obligations both to the treaty of Asti and the common service. The maintenance of the duke of Savoy is a necessity, but it is certain that he cannot subsist by himself, and that his preservation must depend not only upon help from within Italy and upon the support of this republic, but also on aid from without. The preparations of the Spaniards are considerable; the forces of the house of Austria are great, and it appears that the king of Spain dearly wishes to subdue the duke of Savoy. If this succeeds, the consequences will be very serious. Your Serenity must be aware how different are the obligations of my king by the treaty of Asti from those of the crown of France. The French undertook upon the marriages then in negotiation with Spain to see that the Catholic king should observe all his promises to the duke of Savoy in the treaty of Asti. In this the ministers of Spain and France at Milan acted together. My king promised to help the duke if Spain failed to fulfil her engagements. The difference is that France is bound to compel the Spaniards to observe their treaty obligations; the king is bound in case the Spaniards fail to observe the conditions. He certainly will not fail to make good his word. I think it well to inform not only His Majesty but the princes of the Union of Germany, to warn them of what is taking place and acquaint them with the designs of the Spaniards. If your Serenity thinks fit I will go to Germany for this purpose. It would cause less remark than sending another person expressly. I could obtain letters of credence from His Majesty to the court of the Palatine. It could be done at less cost, I could go by the posts and spend possibly two months on the journey. If the republic does not wish to go so far as an alliance, I might at least treat for the beginning of a rapprochement. I may say without presumption that I think I should be a good intermediary owing to my knowledge of the country and of the affair in hand. I would act with great spirit, but this cannot be done without treating for a league. His Majesty desires peace and so do I also. But after the republic has entered upon this affair it is necessary to have a firm understanding in the common interests. I will inform His Majesty of the particulars which have been read to me. I will employ a youth who arrived from Constantinople, two days ago, and who is going to England on business to-morrow, and will travel post.

The duke of Saxony asks me to thank your Serenity for accepting his offer of 3,000 infantry and 300 horse. He is quite ready to serve, but at the last conference between his captains and the Savio deputed to treat with him, the question of the pass presented a difficulty. I told him that the republic would not spend its money upon impossibilities. He recognised the justice of this and proposed that the republic should arrange a provision of money at Hamburg or some other place, so that it may be ready for him at need, as he does not believe that the Grisons will shut their ears to the instances of one of the princes of Germany. This affair has followed a different course from that between the republic and the Grisons and is governed by other conditions, as the Grisons and the others are united and have common interests. The prince is

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likely to succeed, since before his coming he consulted the princes of Germany and was supported by them. I may say that the princes are awaiting the issue with interest.

The doge replied thanking the ambassador. He said, the present state of affairs should cause all princes to reflect, as the general interest and well being are bound up with the preservation of the liberty of Italy. This is all that we can say. The ambassador made a formal reply saying that it was necessary to enter into somewhat closer relations with the princes of Germany. He would wait two or three days for instructions. After making a reverence, he departed.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 28.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispucci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**483.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

A week yesterday the Secretary Winwood wrote to the king at the instance of the ambassador of Savoy as I reported, and in order to move His Majesty more he enlarged upon the fact that if the duke of Savoy were lost, there would be no more liberty in Italy besides that of Venice, which, shut up within too narrow limits, could not long defend herself against the violence of Spain without calling in the help of the Turks, to the very grave harm of Christendom. Although this idea is very improper and does not correspond to the natural piety of the republic it is certain that the Secretary has said this with a good purpose. The king at once sent back his reply, which was to be passed on to the ambassador, almost precisely the same as he had said three days before; His Majesty clearly saw the necessity of assisting the duke, and that such help ought to be considerable and substantial. Accordingly he resolved to supply it, but desired to have the best possible reasons and therefore begged him to have patience for a fortnight. He will return to London and consult his united council or at least the principal among them, mentioning in particular the archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor and the earl of Arundel. The ambassador did not seem very well content at this delay, as meanwhile the affairs of Italy are wavering in the balance and tending to descend on the wrong side for His Highness, and he asked why they did not at least give him the munitions promised at once. Winwood begged him not to disturb the favourable state of affairs by too much haste, but since he had already waited for so long, he could submit to wait these few days longer for the coming of the king, and that if he wished for munitions he should have them on the arrival of Lord Lisle in London, who has charge of them. And so they parted, the proposal to send some one to Piedmont being given up, the ambassador showing that he thought better of it, and pointing out that it would be of no use. For my own part I cannot venture to guess what results will proceed from these new promises of the king. I am much inclined to believe that when the matter is brought before the Council it will meet with great difficulties not only owing to the scarcity of means, which prevent His Majesty from taking any great resolutions at present, but also owing to the dependence of a good part of the Council upon Spain. However, the



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results will be better if the matter is discussed by a few and I have already discovered that the archbishop of Canterbury is very inclined to help the duke and has promised to do all he can to that end. Of the Lord Chancellor I do not know what to promise or of the earl of Arundel either. I am to see the latter one of these days upon another matter, and I will not fail to dwell upon such particulars as I think will incline him to right views.

When I went to kiss the prince's hands three days ago, he asked me many things about current affairs in Italy and especially what help your Excellencies were giving to the duke of Savoy; whether he was strong enough to defend himself, and if the defeat which the Spaniards were publishing abroad were true. I told him of the true state of affairs, telling him in particular how essential was the help which your Serenity granted to His Highness, who was also trying to defend himself with his own forces with singular ability, but it would be most difficult for him to do so if he were not succoured by a greater power. I hinted at the hope cherished in Italy that the king his father would provide help.

He also asked me how matters were going with the archduke, and in speaking of the republic he expressed the warmest friendship and a great desire for her felicity. I replied in conformity with the truth and as I thought would best assist the affairs of His Highness, and with the king as well when he reads the written account which the prince is always accustomed to take to him about what takes place in his interviews with the ministers of foreign powers.

London, the 28th October, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 28.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disposci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**484.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

It seems that Lord Hay, who returned yesterday to London from the Court, was not so well received by the king as he expected, and one of the magnates said that he had brought back more presents from France than glory, as in addition to jewels of great value which he received from Their Majesties he also received from the princes and titled nobility thirty-two of the best horses to be found in that kingdom. To-day I went to call upon him, and he told me that he had served the interests of your Serenity with no less zeal than those of his own master, and he spoke at length of the prudence and ability of our ambassadors. Upon the more essential matters touching France he told me that the queen had promised her daughter to the Count of Soissons and the sister to the Duke of Longueville for the simple purpose of drawing them away from their party and balancing by them the duke of Guise who, by the fall of Condé, would remain too great and formidable without such a counterpoise. He wished to make me believe that when the present difficulties are settled His Majesty will not keep his promise to give his sister to Soissons. That the people of France, at the first shock, took very ill the imprisonment of the Prince of Condé, but by degrees the feeling caused by so strong a step had disappeared, they had quieted down and were almost glad of it, thinking

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that it might confirm a long peace and alleviate the disasters of war which they had undergone for some years owing to the caprices of the prince of Condé, since the other princes do not suffice to create a disturbance because they have no leader of the blood royal. I leave the truth of these things to the knowledge which your Excellencies must have from better sources, but it is clear that the baron was glad to talk about it to cover as best he could the two principal failures with which he is credited by common report, the imprisonment of the prince and the marriage of the princess of France to Soissons, which took place while he was in Paris, to the detriment of the king's reputation.

They have not yet been able to settle the differences between the merchants of this kingdom and the Dutch with regard to coloured cloth, which they will no longer receive into their country. A great quantity of it was sent to Middelburg in Zeeland and thence distributed throughout the world. Now, although the matter is kept secret, I understand from one who is concerned in the business, that the merchants propose to select another place to take their cloth to, and they are turning their eyes towards Villafranca or Nice, places of the duke of Savoy. His Majesty's ministers have already spoken about it to the Count of Scarnafigi, and he is to meet the heads of the company. The ambassador has not hitherto been willing to confess this affair to me, as I should have liked him to, in order to point out to him that this matter, which involves difficulties, may easily have been introduced by the English to excite the jealousy of the Dutch and to gain an advantage in the settlement while the duke would gain nothing beyond the offence which the States General might take, a matter of great consideration at any time, but much more at present.

The queen returned from Oatlands on Monday, where she has spent this summer, to her usual residence at Greenwich, and the whole court is hastening on the necessary preparations and decorations for the approaching ceremony of the prince.

Two ships left these shores a fortnight ago with 392 barrels of powder for the service of your Serenity, as in spite of all my efforts I could not obtain the 500 barrels granted by the royal Council. With this grant such an uproar arose among the merchants, because of the scarcity of powder, that the matter was not carried on with due secrecy and before the powder was laded the report got abroad, and, I suspect, caused more trouble. I will see that the balance is ready when next ships are going. I do not think that these have left the kingdom as yet, as they have to lade salted fish at Plymouth. I have not arranged the exact price with the merchant Vanderput, because they have not yet drawn up the bill, but I have an absolute promise that it will not exceed 15 ducats the hundred through to Venice.

London, the 28th October, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 28.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**485.** That the ambassador of England be summoned to the Cabinet and the following read to him :

We have always recognised your Excellency's regard for our interests, especially in the readiness with which you undertook to

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represent our last offices to His Majesty and to recommend them with the urgency which present affairs demand. The Spaniards persist more than ever in their attempts to the prejudice of this province, as they have succeeded by spending a great sum of money in sowing a bad impression among the Grisons, aided by the connivance of the ministers of France. The Beitag (*Pitach*) has taken such a position that our two secretaries have felt constrained to leave Coire. The Grisons have recalled under severe penalties all their countrymen in our service, they make the pass difficult for us and allow the Spaniards that commodity; thus the danger to Italy, to the liberty of the duke of Savoy and other princes grows continually, making it necessary for His Majesty to help both with declarations and acts both by reason of the treaty of Asti and for the common service.

That France is not fulfilling her obligations under that treaty is no subject for wonder, owing to the disturbances there. The republic is fully observing her obligations to the duke of Savoy under that treaty, and we are sure that His Majesty will do what is right. We beg you to represent all this.

We thank your Excellency for your offers with respect to the princes of Germany, which are worthy of your friendly disposition. We have to say in reply that we have always endeavoured to preserve a good understanding with those princes, and our Ambassador Gussoni has been sent to show our confidence and express our esteem. Our Secretary Surian, now at the Hague, had similar instructions. The preservation of the duke of Savoy, which is important for the common service, demands present and powerful assistance, which may be expected from His Majesty, who besides setting a good example, may make such representations to the princes as may seem good to him, acquainting them with the importance of maintaining Savoy and the liberty of Italy, which must needs be advantageous at this present time.

With regard to the duke of Saxony, we highly value his person, his disposition towards us and his qualities. When we are sure that he has the pass open and can bring his men through to our service, we will send the money without delay to any convenient place in Germany.

Ayes 122.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 28.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni  
Venetian  
Archives.

486. To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.

The ambassador of England has returned to this city and we have had the enclosed read to him, which we sent to you for information. You will tell His Majesty what you find there about the Grisons, so that he may know the action of the Spaniards, the present state of Italy and the need for prompt and powerful help to the duke of Savoy. With regard to the king's obligations under the treaty of Asti, you will, if the matter is broached, reply in the sense of this answer of ours. We have to add that we have

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engaged 4,000 Dutch troops under Count John Ernest of Nassau and made some other provision of troops. This is for information. We are without letters from you this week. We desire to have them always.

Ayes 122.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 28.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**487.** To the AMBASSADOR in the IMPERIAL COURT.

The duke Francis of Saxony has been to offer his services with 3,000 foot and 500 horse, bringing letters from the king of Great Britain and being introduced by the ambassador of that crown. We are treating about the difficulty of the pass. He has come here privately. The ambassador has given us the enclosed particulars of his birth and condition. We direct you to obtain particulars as cautiously as possible about his qualities and what prospect he has of fulfilling his offers.

Ayes 119.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 28.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**488.** To the AMBASSADOR in ENGLAND.

We hear that the Ponte Vecchio of Goritia is impassible, and it is commanded by certain pieces of artillery to prevent repairs. The enemy remaining this side the Lisonzo have fortified an eminence.

The General of Istria, on hearing that the enemy had fortified the monastery and campanile at San Piero di Selve, from which they raided the country, had them destroyed. The place surrendered after an honourable defence. Our troops have ravaged the country round San Servolo, carrying off some booty.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Constantinople, Savoy, the Hague, Florence, Milan, Naples, Mantua and Padavin.

Ayes 119.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 29.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**489.** To the AMBASSADOR with the DUKE OF SAVOY.

We have informed the ambassador of England resident with us of the present state of affairs in Italy, and of the designs of the Spaniards both against His Highness and us, so that he may inform His Majesty about it. Our minister in London will do the same, representing how much it becomes his greatness and generosity not only to apply his authority but to give effective help so that these pernicious ideas may not result in the general loss, when a remedy could no longer be applied and repentance would come too late. We direct you to inform His Highness of this, telling him

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that we have used every possible means to help his cause, making representations to France and the States and also at Rome.

Ayes 120.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 29.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**490.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

After the ordinary courier of Flanders left last night with my letters of that day to your Serenity, a courier arrived from France with letters from the English ambassador there to His Majesty. The contents came to my knowledge immediately, and I thought your Excellencies would be glad to compare them with advices from elsewhere, so I am sending them by way of Zeeland.

The ambassador writes that he heard that the duke of Guise had licence from the Queen Mother to take a good number of men to help the duke of Nemours in his undertaking against Savoy. Accordingly he went to the duke of Guise and told him that he could find no more certain way of displeasing the king of Great Britain than by molesting the duke of Savoy, and if he desired to please him he would abstain from such a resolution, that His Majesty would remember whichever of the two courses he took. M. de Guise replied that it was true he had intended to go and help the duke of Nemours to recover his estates occupied by the duke of Savoy, as in addition to their being brothers, he was heir of whatever Nemours might leave if he died without sons. But upon perceiving the displeasure of the king of England, whom he so highly esteems, he gave up the idea, and he would never go. He gave a solemn promise to this effect, but he begged His Majesty to employ his authority to accommodate the differences between Nemours and His Highness.

After this the ambassador went to the queen and complained greatly about the leave which she had given to the duke of Guise and of the orders to open the passes to the troops of Nemours and Burgundy. He begged her to withdraw this, and pointed out to her some of the numerous reasons which supported this.

The queen said that she had done everything to gratify Guise, and if he had not pressed for it she would have been quite contented for matters to have proceeded in another way. The ambassador added that His Most Christian Majesty proposes to give the Government of Auvergne to the Count of Auvergne, including therein the Lyonnais and the other Governments near Savoy, so that all those governors may live in a good understanding with His Highness and close the passes to those of another turn of mind.\*

From the other letters of this ambassador and of other well-informed persons of France, it is understood that things are now fairly quiet in that kingdom, but with every appearance of only remaining so a short while. The royal army

\* Edmondes' letter is dated 17 October, 1616, and is preserved at the Public Record Office, *State Papers, Foreign France*, Vol. 66.

1616.

is disbanding, one part being kept on foot for service under the count of Auvergne. The malcontents are scattered here and there, the duke of Epernon was harassing la Rochelle and at the Court they devote their chief attentions to keeping the pope and the Catholic king in a good humour.

The same courier brought letters for the ambassador of Savoy, from Crotti, the first secretary of His Highness, who sends him particulars of events up to the 28th September, and tells him that from Venice they are receiving some help in money, from France levies of men, and from England nothing but ambiguities, wherefore His Highness desires that they shall proceed freely with him and say what they mean to do, as these amusements cause too much harm. With these letters the ambassador has been to Winwood to-day and was told that within a week he will see such resolution in His Majesty that both His Highness and he will remain satisfied.

London, the 29th October, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 29.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**491.** OTTAVIO BON and VICENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

We have recently visited the chief ministers of the crown here, particularly Villeroy, Mangot and the President Jeannin, nominated by the queen to treat about the alliance with the Grisons. We have asked the ambassador of England and the ambassador and agent of Zurich and Berne to favour the affair when they have an opportunity as we have no other friends at the Court, the Spanish ambassador opposing us vigorously.

Paris, the 29th October, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 29.  
Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**492.** The deliberation of the Senate of yesterday was read to the Ambassador of England; he said:

I am gratified that the Senate recognises my goodwill and my conscience tells me that it is deserved. I proposed to go to Germany for two reasons, the first to inform the princes of the purposes of the Spaniards and stir them to action; the second to initiate a closer intelligence between them and this republic, not to go so far as an alliance but to increase the mutual friendship. This was useful because the princes form a powerful body in themselves and would be much more so if united with others. I know that this would have pleased the king, who would have sent letters to the court of the Palatine and other suitable places. I understand, however, that your Serenity considers the way to this friendship to have been well prepared by the sending of the Ambassador Gussoni and the Secretary Suriano to those parts, so I will await another occasion when you may please to command me. I will use every effort to make His Majesty alive to the artifices of the Spaniards. I am particularly struck by one which has proved most successful, namely that by which the duke of Nemours has been alienated from the duke of Savoy. The friendship between them was great, and

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when I was at that court upon the marriage of the Princess Elizabeth of England, His Highness never spoke of him to me but as '*Mon frère, mon frère le duc de Nemur.*' Their friendship was such that His Highness had decided to give him his daughter, the Princess Cattarina, to wife. But the Spaniards, by means of a special embassy, persuaded the duke not to do this, and thereby he offended the prince. They nourished this feeling, which arose from their own advice, and by the aid of money have obtained their desire. But I hope that the duke will be able to save himself by means of his friends, with the succours of this republic. His Majesty will doubtless do his share, as bound by the treaty of Asti and by the common interests. He will inform his friends in Germany and the States of these occurrences, so that if the Spaniards persist in their determination to dominate Italy there is no doubt that the consequences will react upon the Low Countries in Flanders. The king will not fail the duke of Savoy and I will use my pen in the same interests.

I will see the duke of Saxony when he leaves and assure him of the esteem of your Excellencies and how much you value his offer, leaving the difficulty about the passage of the Grisons to his reply.

Before leaving I may say that I understand that the difficulties with the Grisons have been fomented by the Spaniards and by the connivance of the French. I hear that the ambassador of France has informed the residents of the republic that he has received express instructions from his Most Christian Majesty to favour all the affairs of your Serenity for the opening of the pass. They have also stated that they have express instructions to oppose the league. This is favouring the accessory and opposing the principal, as it is certain that the pass cannot be had from them without an alliance. My idea is that the Grisons desired a league with the republic similar to the first. They ought now to be much more desirous of an alliance which includes the princes of Germany as well. It is true that the capriciousness of those people is notorious. From thence proceed all their disorders and troubles, as they are unstable and, to speak frankly, venal. But this common union would serve to hold them fast to the league, because every time that they wanted to change they would have in mind their obligations to the princes, and that would serve to keep them firm.

The doge replied with thanks, but said that they had no other answer to give than the one which had been read. After the ambassador had made a reverence, he departed.

[*Italian.*]

Oct. 31.  
Consiglio di X,  
Parti  
Comuni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**493.** That leave be granted to the sons of the late Ambassador Barbarigo to visit the ambassador of the King of Great Britain resident here.

Ayes 14.  
Noes 0.  
Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

1616.

Oct. 31.

Senato,  
Scereta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives,

**494. CHRISTOFORO ZURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Giovanni Battista Pasini, a Venetian subject, has come to me from Brussels to inform me of certain individuals who are in the service of the archdukes and who are anxious to serve the republic. Among them is an English knight, a Catholic, about forty-three years of age. He has served in these parts at other times under the leadership of the valiant Colonel Francis Vere. He was lieutenant of his brigade, served as sergeant-major and finally had the absolute command of it in the absence of his chief. Moved by the prospect of greater advancement offered to him on behalf of the archdukes, and stimulated by his zeal for religion, he passed to their service, in which he was also sergeant-major, and while he was living in the hope of honour and profit he was cashiered, but always with the promise of advancement. Tired of waiting any longer for the fulfilment of these promises he conceived the idea of coming to serve your Serenity, and with this idea he approached Pasini, asking me to make enquiries about him of Count Maurice. I did so last week, when I saw His Excellency on his return from Bitre [? Breda]. He assured me that the man was experienced and courageous, and had earned the reputation of a good soldier here under Colonel Francis Vere. The only thing he blamed him for was in abandoning this service to join the Spaniards and serve as a simple captain in the army of His Highness, but this was owing to the promises made to him. Pasini also told me that this knight, besides being a good officer, claimed great experience in engineering, understanding entrenchments and other similar things. Besides his native English he spoke seven or eight other languages, including Italian. At present he receives 110 ducats a month from the archdukes, but Pasini is sure that your Serenity can have him for 100 ducats and possibly for 80 if he receives the title of Colonel, which he claims very particularly. Your Excellencies will find particulars of his services in the recent wars in the enclosed sheet, which he sent to me to forward, and he desires to know your decision so that he may immediately present himself before your Serenity.

Pasini desires to know the intentions of your Serenity with regard to the Englishman, named Sir Thomas Studder.

The Hague, the last day of October, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch

**495. Account of the services of SIR THOMAS STUDDER.**

From 1593 to 1597 he served under the General and Lord High Admiral of England, at sea.

From 1598 he left the Admiral, intending to serve in the war of Hungary, but passing through Holland, he stopped with the leader of the English, called Sir Francis Vere, under whom he served for some years as a soldier owing to his respect for so famous a man.

In the same year, 1598, he was present with the English infantry, and in the company of Count Maurice at the time when the Admiral of Aragon took Rheinberg (*Rimberga*) with the Spanish forces.



1616.

In the year 1599 he was with the English infantry in Bommel, when it was besieged by the Admiral of Aragon, who was compelled to raise the siege.

In 1600 in the spring he was with the English infantry and Count Maurice at the taking of Crevecoeur and St. Andrea.

In July in the same year he served with the English in the battle between Ostend and Nieuport, where the Spaniards lost. There he carried the standard, after its bearer had fallen, and as a reward was created captain.

In 1601 he was present with Count Maurice at the taking of Rheinberg (*Rimberg*) as captain of the English. At the conclusion of the siege he was sent with 3,000 veteran troops by water to enter Ostend with as many new troops from England.

In 1602, the English infantry being almost completely consumed, and the remainder being sent elsewhere, he was created sergeant-major with a company of 200 men.

In the same year he took part in the voyage made by Count Maurice to relieve Ostend, which was prevented by the arrival of the Marquis Spinola.

In the same year he was sergeant-major of the English in the affair of Grave.

In 1603 he was with Count Maurice at the relief of Hoestrat and Bolduche, where in the absence of his general he commanded his regiment, and was present with a part of his men at the assault made upon the Marquis della Bella, when they took the place.

In 1604 peace was made between Great Britain and Spain, and he, being a Catholic, resigned his post.

In the same year the Spanish ambassadors in England made tempting offers to secure his services.

In 1605 he accepted and was present with about 2,000 men at the siege and capture of Waeltendmeq, and afterwards at Cracow.

In 1606 he was at the affair of Rheinberg (*Vimberga*).

He is disgusted at the non-fulfilment of the promises made to him by the ambassadors, while his wages have not been paid.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 4.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**496.** To the BAILO in CONSTANTINOPLE.

We have received your letters of the 3rd and 18th September relating the grave proposals of the Caimecan and Grand Defterdar, which we consider most obnoxious. You will make complaints to the Caimecan and due representations. If we liked to retaliate, as we might easily do, the trade of the Turkish subjects here would suffer greatly. It is better to refrain from such action, and you will endeavour to obtain the restitution of the property retained by reasoning with the Defterdar.

You will also speak to the Caimecan about the bertons of Tunis, which, in spite of the strong orders which you obtained, have, during these last months, been about the island of Cyprus waiting for merchant ships, and which receive in all the places of His Majesty and in that island in particular every commodity of provisions and accommodation for the ships, as you will see by what our

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Consul Foscarini writes from Aleppo. You will repeat how they inflict damage upon Turkish subjects as well as our own and show what damage they inflict upon the trade and customs of His Majesty, as the action of their ships not only prejudices Turkish subjects and our own, but French, English and Flemings also. You will approach the ambassadors of those powers, to obtain these orders jointly if you think fit, and above all you will make urgent representations to the Pasha of the Sea, when he returns.

Ayes 120.

Noes 1.

Neutral 3.

[Italian.]

Nov. 4.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**497. To the BAILO in CONSTANTINOPLE.**

You will continue to make representations about the carazo, either jointly with the other ambassadors or separately, as you judge best, as we attach great importance to the matter mentioned by you about the special protection enjoyed by the ambassadors of England and Flanders for their Jewish dragomans, to the prejudice of the common cause. The attempt to impose the carazo has always hitherto been abandoned by good advice, as they have recognised how prejudicial it must be to the good governance of the state and friendly relations with the powers, and that it would compel the merchants to abandon their trade and thus inflict loss upon the commerce and customs of His Majesty.

The dragomans are protected by the capitulations as being the dependants of the prince whom they serve, and they cannot be touched without breaking the capitulations. You will use these and other arguments to the Caimecan.

Ayes 120.

Noes 1.

Neutral 3.

[Italian.]

Nov. 4.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**498. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Owing to contrary winds Lord Roos has not yet been able to embark for Spain. He is at Plymouth, whence, I am told, he has written to His Majesty to say that letters have reached him from the Court of the Catholic king with news that if he does not take with him some definite proposals upon the subject of religion his negotiations for marriage will not only prove fruitless, but other matters also will not be well received. In this respect the Spaniards desire that the whole of the princess's household shall be free to exercise the Catholic religion, which will not easily be granted by His Majesty and the Council, as they do not wish the use of the Roman Church to extend outside her chamber, in order that there may be as little confusion as possible and as little of the harm which the English pretend they receive by the introduction of this important irritant.

1616.

Throughout the present week the Council has been discussing the affair of the cloth as a matter of the highest importance. They do not know what decision to take which will give satisfaction and repair the damage caused by the prohibition of the Dutch. They have talked of excluding all silk from the kingdom, so that the people themselves may use all the cloth which cannot be sent abroad and thus shut the door against an immense quantity of gold which is continually flowing from this kingdom to various parts of the world, and to Italy in particular. But this provision is not sufficient to heal the mischief and already one hears the outcry of a great many people who have been thrown out of work through the dislocation of the cloth-making trade, and who do not know how they will gain a livelihood.

Two English captains have arrived, recommended by Count Ernest of Nassau for the service of your Excellencies.\* Although I have not been able to see them as yet, in spite of all my efforts, I understand that they are here to enlist soldiers, more particularly among those who have served the States in the past, and who have experience of war, from whom good service may be expected. I will especially try to find out what they are doing and upon what conditions they will take the men out of the island, so that this experience may serve for other occasions when your Excellencies may command other levies here. Already a certain captain here has offered to come and serve you upon the same conditions as the levies from Holland will have, presupposing that they will be equally efficient.

As Lord Dingwall is better, I have been to pay him a complimentary visit. I found him still weak from the disease and his mind much perturbed at the outcome of his journey. In one respect he felt himself consoled, namely by the favours and honours which he had received at Venice both from your Excellencies and your representatives, but he was greatly distressed at not having been able to obtain the principal object of his journey to Italy, which was to show himself by deeds a servant of the republic as devoted as any subject, and his offers of service involved no idea of benefiting himself, but were simply for honour. He thought he had not made himself understood and that he had been unfaithfully served by those who accompanied and helped him, *not excluding the Ambassador Wotton himself*, and he was sorry that at the very beginning of the affair he was stopped from speaking. When he saw how little inclination they had to avail themselves of his offer, he would have explained himself. He said that his offer was much greater than was credited. Not only would he have brought 6,000 foot, but under the same promise of the king his Master he would have bound himself to come with such a fleet to serve your Serenity that you would have remained master of all these seas. He had with him detailed notes of all the necessary expenses, which would have afforded entire satisfaction to your Excellencies. Nevertheless he is still of the same mind in wishing to serve the republic, and he has made it known in all the places he has passed through. In his relations with the king he has sought to remove

\* Probably Sir John Vere and Capt. Woodowes, who afterwards accompanied the Dutch troops who went to Venice under the Count of Nassau.

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His Majesty's astonishment at the little value which he saw your Excellencies placed upon his offices and letters, in which he made himself security for what the baron promised, a thing so unusual that no other Englishman or Scotchman has ever obtained such a thing from His Majesty. The baron is resolved that he will serve no other prince in the world except his natural sovereign and your Serenity. After having once offered he will never withdraw, and if in the future he can obtain the favour of your commands and the honour of being employed, he will not only stake his life, but, to show that he is not a soldier of fortune, he will also stake his 24,000 crowns a year what he expects to obtain shortly from the acquisition of a county<sup>3</sup> and whatever his friends and relations can collect.

In our long conversation together I tried to satisfy him as much as I reasonably could, assuring him of your Serenity's esteem for him and how much you valued his offer, which you would use when an opportunity occurred. I tried to sweeten those things which seemed to me to be most bitter. With the sincerity which I owe to the affairs of your Serenity I may say that I found he had an extraordinary affection for your affairs, of which he speaks in the most honourable and respectful manner. The knight Skinner (Schiner) who accompanied him does just the opposite. He was offended by something or other and has gone about saying everywhere, both on his journey and here in England, every possible evil. On this account the baron has fallen out with him and tries to counteract his influence.

There are fourteen pirate ships outside the strait of Gibraltar which do great harm. They recently plundered four ships coming from Newfoundland.<sup>†</sup> Inside the strait they say that there are a great many others, from whom, however, the Dutch ships ought to be safe, which are taking the soldiers of the Count of Nassau, owing to their numbers, and because the pirates will not want to tackle them since there is nothing to be gained but death.

The king remains at Royston, 44 miles away, and next week he will come to London, when we shall see what is to be done in the matter of Savoy.

London, the 4th November, 1616.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Nov. 4.  
Senato,  
Secreta,  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

499. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*I spoke to the duke of the pretensions of the Spaniards and of the desire of your Excellencies for the establishment of peace in this province. He was very glad to hear of the decision of your Serenity to send again to the king of England, because he does not conceal his*

\* He probably referred to the Butler estates, which he hoped to obtain by virtue of his marriage with Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Butler, earl of Ossory and Ormonde. The earl died in 1614, but settled nearly all his lands on the earl male, who refused to part with them, and was sent to the Fleet for his refusal. G.E.C., *Complete Peerage*, iii., p. 128.

† Cf. the news letter of Lord Carew to Sir Thomas Roe for October. Seven English fishing ships were interrupted between Newfoundland and Italy by thirty Turkish frigates, and taken or sunk. *Cal. State Papers, Domestic 1611-8*, page 426.

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*difficulties from his friends and thinks it will be very useful to stir up that king vigorously, telling him that the smallest declaration of action would produce the most beneficial results ; but he seemed to expect little or to get it late.*

Chivasso, the 4th November, 1616.

[*Italian ; deciphered.*]

Nov. 5.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**500.** Letters patent announcing the acceptance of the offer of Prince Francis Julius of Saxony, Hungary and Westphalia to bring 3,000 foot and 3,000 horse to serve the republic within three months, with a request to the friends and orders to the ministers of the republic to afford every facility for the passage of these troops.

Ayes 120.

Noes 5.

Neutral 5.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 5.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**501.** That the English ambassador be summoned to the Cabinet with the Prince Francis Julius, and the following be read to him : We are much gratified by the prince's offer and beg to thank him, as we highly value his personal merits and greatly esteem his distinguished house.

Ayes 120.

Noes 5.

Neutral 5.

That 50 ducats be spent in refreshments to be offered by the Cabinet to the prince.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 5.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**502.** To the KING OF GREAT BRITAIN.

We have received a fresh confirmation of your Majesty's friendship towards the republic in your recommendation of Prince Francis Julius of Saxony to serve us. We greatly esteem his offer, especially as it comes with such a recommendation, and we return our warmest thanks.

Ayes 120.

Noes 5.

Neutral 5.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 7.  
Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**503.** The deliberation of the Senate of the 5 November was read to the Prince Francis Julius, duke of Saxony, and the ambassador of England. The latter thanked the doge and said that the duke proposed at first to return home by Augsburg but he subsequently thought it would be better to take the opportunity of going straight to the Grisons to secure the opening of the pass, which he does not think they will refuse to a prince of the Empire. The doge made a courteous reply. The duke, in French, asked the ambassador to speak for him, as although he understood what had been read he

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would not venture to speak in Italian. After these offices his gentlemen were introduced to pay their respects to his Serenity, and then they took leave and departed.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**504.** OTTAVIO BON and VICENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The English ambassador, when we happened to visit him, told us in confidence that he had made strong representations to the queen about the grant which she is said to have made to Nemours' men to pass into Savoy through Burgundy. He reminded her of the bond she was under to help the duke of Savoy with all her forces and not to do him such manifest harm, which would ultimately prove most prejudicial to this crown and a blow to her reputation. After listening patiently, Her Majesty replied: Do you think I am so destitute of judgment as not to recognize the importance of the preservation of the duke of Savoy to this kingdom? He replied: Madam, I am well aware that your Majesty recognises it, and that is why I am amazed when I see you acting in quite the contrary sense. The queen said: You see I know what I am doing. The ambassador remarked: Perhaps your Majesty has some security that the duke of Savoy will receive no harm. Yes, she said, I tell you what I would not say to anyone else.

Paris, the 8th November, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 9.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**505.** To the BAILO in CONSTANTINOPLE.

We are sorry to hear that the carazo has already been introduced. You will continue negotiations either jointly or separately for its removal. If it is continued, our merchants will be obliged to abandon that mart, or we shall be forced to introduce similar burdens for the Turkish merchants who trade here.

You have dealt with the affair of the *archenda* levied at Zante entirely to our satisfaction, but we have thought fit to write to Zante for detailed information.

Ayes 101.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 9.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**506.** To the PROVEDITORE of ZANTE.

By the enclosed copy you will see the trouble in which our Bailo at Constantinople finds himself owing to a certain *archenda* bought by a merchant named Cariatì for an English merchant and sent by our ships to Constantinople. We desire you to take information cautious and secretly and send us full particulars.

Ayes 101.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

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Nov. 11. 507. To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

Collegio,  
Lettere.  
Segrete.  
Venetian  
Archives.

We enclose a copy of what we have written to the ambassador in Germany with respect to the negotiations of the Cardinal's Ludovico and M. Bethune, and the news of Friuli. This will serve you for information to use as our service requires with His Majesty and his ministers; and you will maintain a good understanding with the ambassador of Savoy.

[Italian.]

Nov. 12. 508. To the AMBASSADOR at TURIN.

Senato,  
Segreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

Although the ministers of the duke experience difficulties and delays in obtaining help from England, yet we approve of His Highness persevering. We shall do the same, and if possibly we succeed in obtaining something some day, however little it may be, it will give a great impetus to our affairs.

Ayes 130.

Noes 1.

Neutral 3.

[Italian.]

Nov. 13. 509. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato,  
Segreta.  
Dispacci.  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

The States are suspicious *about the departure of Lord Roos, sent to Spain by the king of Great Britain, because they believe that he may carry instructions for the marriage of the second princess to the prince of England. I am assured that Carleton, the king's ambassador here, does not deny this.* Prince Maurice, when I went to see him last Thursday, made grave reflections upon these particulars, saying *that if this other marriage takes place we shall be hedged about on every side, so that he was the more ready to listen to what your Excellencies commanded me to say to him.*

The Hague, the 13th November, 1616.

[Italian; the part in italics deciphered.]

Nov. 16. 510. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato,  
Segreta.  
Dispacci.  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

Prince Maurice, whom I saw this morning, repeated the same ideas as he expressed last week touching the general interests and the affairs of the duke of Savoy. He said there are no others at present who have interest in the public affair except the king of Great Britain, but he did not know how that monarch could help when he had not the wherewithal, and if he wants money he must summon parliament. The French had their own troubles to see to; only the princes of the Union could do anything, and he felt sure they would not fail.

Prince Maurice said something more in praise of Sir Thomas Studer, the Englishman. He said he did not know why he had left this service to be captain instead of sergeant-major in the

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archduke's army. I will await your Serenity's commands about this.

The Hague, the 16th November, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Nov. 17.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

511. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The king came to London on Thursday and on Friday I received your Serenity's letters of the 21st October, commanding me to go at once to audience of His Majesty. I immediately asked for one, and the ambassadors of France, Spain and Savoy did the same on the same day. Saturday was given to France, and Sunday to me, the other two being put off without a fixed time. Accordingly I went to the Court on Sunday at two in the afternoon, the appointed hour. I was kept waiting until six, because His Majesty was in the Council after dinner and was subsequently employed in creating knights of the Bath.\* Accordingly I was introduced into his bedchamber at night, when I presented the credential letters of your Serenity. His Majesty began by saying to me, *All the world is in arms and you are not doing anything.* I replied that if by you he meant the republic I would assure him that it was not only doing what was proper for the preservation of itself and the duke of Savoy, but had almost surpassed itself in the burden it was sustaining. I know that, said the king, but I mean these princes of Italy, our pope, and the duke of Florence; though we must not complain about the pope as I heard the other day that he had published some pardons, in order to quiet disturbances. I said that his Holiness had also sent a cardinal legate to Lombardy and that I knew no particulars about the Italian princes. He then opened and read your Serenity's letters, asking me to tell him what I wanted and permitted me without interruption to expound the whole office, which I tried to perform fully, relating the progress of affairs in Italy, the plans and progress of the Spaniards, the reasons of the duke of Savoy, what your Excellencies were doing and how you hoped that His Majesty would do the like, now that negotiations have ceased; that everything was reduced to force and arms; that it was clear that His Highness had done what could be expected of him in the treaty of Asti, which the Spaniards had not observed. They had entered Piedmont with a large army while on the other hand they were fomenting the archduke Ferdinand with men and money to continue the wars and upset every arrangement for peace. I informed him that in imparting this to His Majesty, your Serenity was observing the usual forms of confidence, and as you were sure he would be most sorry to hear them, he would certainly take some resolution which his prudence would dictate to him under the circumstances. After I had finished I observed that His Majesty was somewhat doubtful in his mind; however, he replied that he knew all these things, that it was true the Spaniards were in the field against the duke of Savoy and he did not wish the duke to fall, but unfortunately he is alone and

\* Twenty-six knights, all of noble families, were created. Their names are given in Nichols, *Progresses of James I.*, iii., pp. 219-222.



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*distant and he cannot do what he would like to. That nothing can be hoped from France, God having permitted such confusion in that kingdom, that the king is sick, the queen has granted a pass to the Spaniards to enter Savoy, and that a strange reply had been given to the ambassador of your Excellencies at Paris upon the affair of the Grisons, all of which indicated that nothing good could be expected from France. Accordingly he repeated to me that he is alone and distant; but he had good news, that there was or would be an armistice in Italy for three weeks, and before this expired he had given orders that another should be arranged from which we might hope for a settling down of all these disturbances. I replied that although the duke of Savoy resisted the Spaniards at the beginning, I did not know how it would be in the long run, as the difference between their forces was so great, and the fact of France being in such a condition ought the more to excite His Majesty to employ his power so that His Highness might not be entirely abandoned and succumb; that as His Majesty is alone in this affair all the glory of bringing it to a happy issue will be his, but the weight would not be entirely borne by him, since he would have the assistance of those powers which were already defending themselves alone, and his great example would induce many other princes to follow, while the distance of England from Italy was not so great that it should be entirely abandoned, or that there should be no means of sending help when necessary. His Majesty allowed me to say what I pleased in reply and then answered, Be sure that I will do what I can, and as he then seemed to wish to retire, I took leave and departed.*

In the audience which the king gave to the Most Christian Ambassador on the preceding day, His Majesty asked him if France desired the duke of Savoy to succumb altogether. The ambassador replied that owing to the respect which he bore for His Majesty he would not make the reply which he had not given some days before the Secretary Winwood in this connection; he would only say that if all those who were bound to help the duke would do what France is doing, the duke would have more reason to fear the teeth of his supporters than the forces of his enemies, since 18,000 French are serving in the armies of Savoy. The king retorted: They are so many enemies for the duke, since they ruin him and waste the country. The ambassador replied that he had not yet heard any complaints about it from the duke, who was perfectly free to dismiss them whenever he wanted to and if he was not well served by them. The king rejoined: But these French are paid by His Highness. The ambassador said this was true, because the state of affairs required it, but all the same, the granting of the men was sufficient.

The reply given by the ambassador to Winwood shortly before, when the secretary told him that France ought not to abandon the duke, was that they had not abandoned the duke, because the men with whom he was defending himself were all French, but England had abandoned him, because not a single English soldier had as yet appeared in Piedmont or Savoy, but the king contented himself with empty words and unfulfilled promises. The secretary replied that this could not be said, because the king of Great Britain had sent money to the duke. The ambassador

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retorted that in the present dangers they could not take into consideration the beggarly halfpence (*quei quattro denari*) which the king had given two years ago, of which His Highness did not receive a farthing and from which he obtained no benefits.

*The hesitation which I thought I perceived in the king, and his irresolute manner of speaking to me is due to the fact that every day since his return to London His Majesty has laboured in the Council to decide what ought to be done in these disturbances of Italy, and the matter being a difficult one they had not settled anything about it at the time of my audience, but I believe that they made up their minds yesterday evening, as His Majesty has arranged to-day after dinner to give audience to the ambassador of Savoy. I will endeavour to obtain particulars before the courier sets out this evening, and send word to your Excellencies with this dispatch.*

London, the 17th November, 1616.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Nov. 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

512. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

On the 10th of this month the prince of England came from Richmond to London by the River Thames, being met by a great number of people, this being the opening ceremonial of his coronation. On the morning of the following day they began by creating twenty-six knights of the Bath, all young men of high birth. With this ceremonial, which lasted three days, and it being the beginning of the carnival, the Court was full of joy and festivity. On Monday His Highness received the crown and title of Prince of Wales, and in the evening a banquet was given, but the festivities did not attain to the splendour of those which were celebrated for the dead prince.\* The French ambassador has taken it very ill that he was not invited to take part in these ceremonies, as reason and custom require, the more so because he knows that this is due to the influence of the Spanish ambassador at this Court. A quarrel is going on between them, and the Spaniard, seeing that he could not have a place himself, succeeded in obtaining that neither France nor any other minister of a prince should be invited.

They are discussing as a matter already settled that His Majesty will at the earliest opportunity make a journey to Scotland, whither he has never returned since he first came to England. He will try to obtain a large sum of money there, and it is said that he will retain the revenues of the districts near that kingdom, and other provision will be made to have money at that time, the Council discussing the matter both yesterday and the day before.

Prince Vittorio of Savoy writes to the Count of Scarnafigi upon the state of affairs and other matters of Piedmont, urging him to ask for help, at least of munitions, as there is a great scarcity. He adds that if he cannot succeed in obtaining even this much liberality from

\* The prince's creation was performed on Monday at Whitehall with all solemnity within doors, for the sharpness of the weather and the prince's craziness did not permit any public show. Chamberlain to Carleton. Nov. 9, 1616, o.s. Birch *Court of James I.*, i. 634. An account of the ceremonies observed is given in Nichols' *Progresses of James I.*, iii., pp. 195-223.

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His Majesty, he must try to buy some with his own money, especially powder and saltpetre, because the necessity is pressing. He also says they have sent an express courier with orders to the count of Moretta to complain to His Most Christian Majesty about the granting of the pass to the men of Nemours, and ask that it may be revoked or that at the least leave may be given to the men of Burgundy to come to Savoy, and to grant His Highness equal liberty to enter Burgundy.

Lord Roos must have left for Spain with these favourable winds, as he has been detained by contrary winds at Plymouth up to the present. *As there has been plenty of time to arrange his instructions, they have taken from him all power to treat for a marriage, even instructing him not to answer if they speak to him about it. It is possibly recognised that he is not the man for such an affair, and so His Majesty does not wish him to negotiate about it at the Court of the Catholic king, but if there are to be negotiations they will be carried on here. It appears that the Spanish ambassador desires the same thing for his own interests, so that he may have all the honour, but this conclusion is still very distant, because although those who desire it are very strongly in its favour there are difficulties in the way.*

With regard to the particulars for which your Excellencies ask, upon the monthly expense of having three or four armed ships from here for fighting purposes, I beg you to wait for detailed information until next week, as I propose to betake myself to Rochester tomorrow to confer with a noted servant of your Serenity who would be fitter than anyone else to be employed in this service, if your Serenity should give orders for it and if he would undertake the charge.

I have received the public letters of the 8th, 25th and 21st October with advices upon the affairs of your Serenity and Savoy, which will prove very useful to me and will serve to destroy all credit in the false news put about by the Spaniards. While I was closing the present letters two others have arrived from your Serenity of the 28th October, with news of the progress of the archduke, commissions for His Majesty, a reply of Wotton of the 26th October and the answer of the Senate on the 25th. At present I can only send a copy of my letters of the 7th October, which I am sorry to hear did not reach your Serenity, I cannot think why.

London, the 17th November, 1616.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Nov. 17.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato,  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

513. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

*I have spoken to Nodari with regard to the service to the ambassador Donato, and he promises devoted service. I have informed Sir [William] Smith of the good hope that he will recover his debt. He has appointed as his proctor Henry Parris, an English merchant living at Venice, who has orders to keep the proxy to himself, without knowing any particulars, and only to show it when requested by Sig. Muscorno or others in his name. He has done this for greater secrecy, so that Parris may not know anything up to the point of receiving the*

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money. *He hopes your Excellencies will be pleased to summon Parris, a merchant very well known in Venice, who will come to receive the money. He offers to serve you with the rest of his property and with life itself.*

From London, the 17th November, 1616.

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

Nov. 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

514. ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*We have constantly been thinking what we could do about the carazo to get matters restored to their former state. I have several times approached the ambassadors of France, England and Flanders to make representations in common, but they have not responded as I could have wished, particularly the English ambassador, for the reasons which I gave before, and because he has been much upset over this affair of the archenda and by another demand made by the Caimecan. As one of the ambassadors abstained, we could not treat in the name of all, and, if we had treated it was not fair that he should share in the benefits without taking any of the trouble. I have, therefore, been acting alone. I approached the Pasha and finally I obtained an Imperial seal confirming the capitulations. When the other ambassadors hear of it they will be sorry that they have not joined in.*

*The trouble of the English ambassador at which I hinted above is even worse than the affair of the archenda. He was summoned by the Pasha to answer a suit brought by some Granatini, who demanded two of their ships which had been captured by some English vessels, taken to Livorno and sold with the merchandise and slaves found in them. The ambassador replied that he knew nothing about it and he was not responsible for the crimes of malefactors. The Pasha said that he was bound to answer because he represents the king of England here, and those men are his subjects. The ambassador replied: They are robbers who have been buccaneering in the parts of Barbary for some fifteen years, and if the king could catch them he would have them all hanged. That of recent years the pirates of Algiers have taken five of their ships, and as the Pasha is not bound to answer for that the ambassador cannot be called upon to repair this damage. The Pasha, rejoined: Then you have taken our ships because we took yours. We recognize our obligation while you justify your subjects. We will restore all the property and punish the guilty, but you must do the same. He added that the capitulations with his king provided that if any harm was inflicted by ships on either side, reparation should be made. The Cadeleschier of Anatolia, wishing to modify the rigour of the Pasha, said that if the capitulations contained this, the ambassador should write to his king asking him to give orders to render satisfaction. But the Pasha grew heated and would not allow the others to utter a word, until finally the cause was adjourned to another day. It is still uncertain whether the Pasha will persist and the ambassador be compelled to give compensation, amounting to several thousand ducats, or if the Pasha will consent to receive something. They are fortunate indeed who escape from the claws of this harpy.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 17th November, 1616.

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

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Nov. 17.  
*Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Dispacci,  
 Candia.  
 Proveditori.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.*

**515.** PIERO BONDUMIER, Proveditore of Candia, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Letters of your Serenity of the 7th and 18 October announce the arrival of the berton Parvis. I have told the Procurator of Canea to embark a certain number of soldiers of Capt. Theodoro Paleologo upon that ship if he thinks fit.

Canea, the 17th November, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 18.

*Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Deliberazioni.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.*

**516.** To the SECRETARY SURIAN at the Hague.

Order to thank Count John Ernest. He is to engage the two Frenchmen who have leave to come with the Count. Of those who have been offered for service by Pasini, who is at Brussels, the English Catholic named Thomas Studer may be engaged, his recommendations being so good, particularly from Count Maurice; he will receive the title of colonel which he asks for. His salary will be paid monthly, on the best terms obtainable. Incite him to come with all speed and provide him with everything necessary for the journey.

Ayes 130.

Noes 5.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 18.

*Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Deliberazioni.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.*

**517.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in England.

The affairs in Italy continue to grow worse. The Spaniards are steadily advancing into Piedmont, and have taken Quinto, Gattinara and other places. The duke is greatly distressed and needs speedy and powerful assistance. We direct you to represent the true state of affairs to the king and his ministers, the imminence of the peril and the need for help, as if the duke succumbs, as he needs must if not assisted, everyone will see how much the affairs of Italy will be prejudiced and what evil consequences will follow for all the great powers. The Spaniards make war not only with their armies, but by preventing assistance from coming. They foment the archduke's subjects to make war on us, with assistance in men and money, and so far as they can they prevent the republic from providing for her own defence, dissuade the archduke from making peace and do everything to separate our interests from those of the duke of Savoy. They will not listen to any negotiations for a settlement and reject all proposals that they shall promise not to attack the republic. There is no hope of a settlement except by assisting the duke without delay.

We have accepted the offer of Prince Francis Julius, duke of Saxony, to serve the republic with 3,000 foot and 300 horse from Germany, but there is a difficulty about opening the pass. He has asked for 3,000 crowns to employ among the Grisons to facilitate this, and although past experience with those people does not make us hopeful of success, yet we have paid the sum, and have directed our secretary with the Grisons to maintain a good understanding

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with the prince. We send this for information and so that you may be able to speak fittingly when addressed upon the subject.

We also send you the copy of our advice which we have in recent letters from Turin. You will try to discover whether it is true, and if it be, you will do what is necessary.

You will congratulate the prince upon the title of Wales which has been conferred upon him, as well as His Majesty. We enclose a letter upon this.

Ayes 120.

Noes 5.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 18.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**518.** To the PRINCE OF WALES in England.

Congratulations upon the assumption of the title of Wales.

Ayes 130.

Noes 5.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 19.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**519.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The duke has great hopes of levies from the Bernese. The insolence of the French is very great. He sees the necessity of finding some counterpoise for them. He said that he had nothing but reports of irresolution from England, and although the United Princes are very willing, they have no money.*

Ivrea, the 19th November, 1616.

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

Nov. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**520.** PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The trial of the Marquis of Inoiosa has ended with his acquittal. I have seen him since, and he expressed his conviction of the proper sentiments of the republic. The feeling is not shared by all the ministers in Italy, as I hear that evil reports are continually being sent to His Majesty. The secretary of England told me he had seen a letter written to the king by Don Alonso Pimentello, in which he says sooner or later the duke will recognise how much he has been deceived by his Venetian friends.

Madrid, the 20th November, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**521.** CHRISTOPHER SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The English ambassador, whom I saw the day before yesterday, began to speak about current affairs and said that the best remedy would be to provide some counterpoise to Spain. This could

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only be managed by a diversion, which only the princes of Germany could provide, or else by the intervention of the king of Great Britain, his master, who has common interests with these states. He had spoken with some of the leading men upon the affairs of the republic and the duke of Savoy and he found that now they are living at peace they are not anxious for a rupture. One of the principal men in the government had said to him in particular that if they were assured that your Serenity would continue the war, and that there would be a common peace and a common settlement, they might possibly be moved to create a diversion.

This is the same idea that I heard at Anspach. Of the duke of Savoy, the ambassador said that His Majesty was most anxious to do everything possible to help him.

The Hague, the 20th November, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Nov. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**522.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The archbishop of Spalato, Mons. Antonio de Dominis, has arrived here in the secular habit. He called upon the English ambassador, in whose house, I am told, he has been received, to stay there until he can proceed to England, whither he is going. So far as I can discover he comes from the Court of Rome in order to excuse himself from the obligation which possibly seems too burdensome to him at his advanced age, of continuing to be a reputable person for the rest of his life.

The Hague, the 20th November, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 24.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**523.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

In the audience which the count of Scarnafigi had of the king on the 17th inst. His Majesty excused himself for not having sent for him before, saying it was because he had been so busy and because he wished to have something definite to say to him. He said they had had continual councils as to whether they should help the duke of Savoy and he himself had proposed the question, giving many reasons, in particular that the friendship of his house with that of Savoy was nothing new, but had begun long since, there being old relations between them, and that duke Emanuel Filiberto, father of the present duke, had been his godfather. The matter had gone so well that he had reason to be very satisfied, seeing all his councillors agreed from the first to the last, as they had fallen in with his views that His Majesty ought to assist that prince. That point being settled, they discussed the manner, the time and the amount. With regard to the manner they decided that they could do nothing except with money, men, and munitions. As for time, it ought to be immediately, and the amount to be according as the accidents of the world might require. In accordance with these resolutions His Majesty decided to summon the ambassador and inform him of everything, adding that he could not

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supply him with any money at present, because he had none ; he even went so far as to say that he could not find any money to save his life. He had any number of men and could supply as many as are required ; munitions also he has and has given orders that a good quantity shall be immediately consigned to the ambassador, which may supply the needs of His Highness for a while. He also told him that I had been in the name of your Serenity to inform him of the state of affairs in Italy and to urge him to help the duke, an office which had pleased him, he said, seeing that it was different from anything else done by the republic in past years in the matter of Montferrat. He confessed that he had told me in reply that he was alone and distant, but he would do everything that he could, as in fact he is doing now by giving these munitions, and making representations in Spain. He also proposed to write of the princes of the Union in Germany and to the States, urging them to defend the common cause and assist His Highness, because in so doing they will be defending their own interests and the matter will prove easier. The ambassador kissed his hands for the grant of munitions and repeated the need of His Highness for money, paid troops and ships, as although there was no fighting in the winter, yet they were compelled to pay the troops. He drew attention to the reputation His Majesty would acquire by sending men and ships to help in Italy. The king replied that he had every desire to help the duke in every way, but at the moment he should have the munitions, and for the rest he should speak to Winwood afterwards.

On the following morning the ambassador went to Winwood and brought with him a document in which he asked not only for munitions but money for paid troops and His Majesty's war ships. To this the secretary told him that he should have the munitions at once, though he would not say how much ; but it was useless to speak of money because there was none, though he hoped that before long His Majesty's purse would be richer than it is at present. With regard to men, there was little advantage to be obtained in this way owing to the distance and the great expense of taking them. With respect to the king's ships, it would be difficult to induce the Council to agree to it, and even if they wished to send them, it would be very difficult to have them ready by next spring.

All this week the ambassador has been pressing the secretary to tell him what quantity of munitions he is going to give, and to ask that they may be sent, but hitherto he has not been able to get either the one or the other. It therefore appears that all this fine show of words and promises amounts to no more than the usual thing, that is nothing at all or very little, as it is understood that the powder and lead are old and of so insignificant a quantity that it is not worth considering, if what is whispered be true. But what is worse they will not grant to His Highness the benefit which is valued most, namely, the advantage he would have derived from making known to the world that he was being helped by the king of Great Britain, as yesterday morning the Secretary Winwood told the ambassador freely that His Majesty did not wish the grant of these munitions to be known, as he had so many differences with the Spaniards that he did not wish to prejudice them, and he would make arrangements with the merchants Burlamachi and Calandrini, through whom he would pretend to buy, while they would pretend to sell, but all the same they should



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obtain them from the king. All this seemed exceedingly strange to the ambassador, and in view of this proposed manner of dealing he did not know what course to follow. However, he decided to send a special person to the duke in three or four days, to inform him of all this affair, since it can be related better orally, and that it is of no further use to hope for anything. His Highness must give up all hope of receiving help from this quarter, but as he has nowhere else where he can look for support, he had better seek out some honourable way of coming to terms with the Catholic king.

The resident of Florence went to audience of the king the other day for some affair of small moment. His Majesty asked him what his duke was doing, and if he proposed to resist or assist the subjection of Italy to the Spaniards, adding that he wished to be called Grand Duke and was becoming a grand slave, and that he ought to write and tell him so in the king's name.

Last week His Majesty also had a long conversation with the Spanish ambassador about the affairs of Italy. He complained of the manner in which the Catholic king treated the duke of Savoy, and by displaying a disposition to help him induced the ambassador to throw all the blame upon the duke. He accused him of three things, of having broken the treaty of Asti by not having disarmed in time, of refusing to submit his differences with Mantua to the emperor, and of continuing to harass Mantua. To the first the king replied that if one gentleman promises to another the payment of a debt within ten days, and if, owing to inability, he pays him two days later, he ought not to be blamed; similarly, if the duke, owing to a lack of money for paying his soldiers, could not dismiss them until some days after, this was not a sufficient reason for blaming him. To the second he said that the term emperor might be interpreted in two ways, either as the person of Matthias or the Imperial Chamber; that he would never have advised the duke to submit the affair to Matthias, because he was a partisan, not a judge, but to the Imperial Chamber, and he was sure that the duke would have done this as he had promised him he would. For the third His Majesty had never observed that Savoy had attacked Mantua after the treaty of Asti, except when compelled to do so in his own defence, for which the attempts of the Spaniards upon Montferrat gave him cause, rendering it necessary for His Highness to do something in Montferrat, but he had always claimed to have acted under compulsion.

The ambassador then remarked that His Catholic Majesty had committed all the affairs of Italy to Don Pedro of Toledo, who was certainly a man after his own heart. He knew well that there was not in the world any emperor, king, or prince who could do more with the king of Spain to bring back peace to Italy, than the king of Great Britain, whose offices will always be highly esteemed by the Catholic king. He enlarged upon this considerably, in order to enfeeble the king's resolution and lull him to sleep.

His Majesty has also spoken to the ambassador of the States upon the affairs of Italy. I do not know exactly what passed between them, but I do know that he tried to stir up the States not to abandon the duke of Savoy, but to consider that the common interests are largely involved in his private cause. So far as I hear the States would not raise difficulties in the way of doing anything if the king would first set an example by definite action. I also hear that the States are much

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*exercised at the present condition of the world, as appears by what they have written to the king of Denmark, as your Excellencies have heard from elsewhere.*

London, the 24th November, 1616.

*[Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.]*

Nov. 24.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**524.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Owing to the continued occupations of the king and because I had audience five days before, I have not found it so easy to go to him again to fulfil the instructions contained in the letters of the 28th ult. upon the disturbances in the Grisons; and the more so because His Majesty was about to leave. In fact he left London on Monday and withdrew to Newmarket, a hunting place, where he will remain until Christmas. I therefore thought it better to go to Winwood and inform him of what had taken place, begging him to advise the king. He at once promised to do so when he went to the Council. I have received no other reply from him, except that they had already heard these particulars and that all the mischief came from France, confining himself to the usual generalities for the rest.

The other day I went to Rochester to obtain detailed information about war ships, but I did not find the individual whom I wanted there, as he had gone to Spain with Lord Roos. I therefore had to address myself elsewhere, and I have received very varying information, but as some more is to come, I hope it will please your Excellencies better to have the whole in a single letter eight days hence, than to have a fragmentary and imperfect part now.

By reason of the dispute about cloth between England and the Low Countries, they are expecting some Dutch commissioners here, who are to negotiate about it. They will try and obtain the regulation of some other things affecting commerce at the same time, in particular some new regulations of this kingdom which are highly prejudicial to the trade of all the other nations. The French ambassador also complained about these, and had audience of His Majesty and saw the Royal Council about them the other day.

It is understood that at the island of St. Vincent there are some twenty ships of Algiers, which are awaiting the Spanish fleet to attack it. If they succeed it will be a matter of great moment in the present state of affairs, since there is a great scarcity of money both in Spain and in Flanders, and for some while they have been supporting themselves by the hope of this fleet. The Spaniards say that His Catholic Majesty's share in it will amount to 6 millions, but it is not believed that it will even come to half that.

The Spanish ambassador here has received from Lord Roos 16,000 crowns to be re-paid in Spain, not so much for the ordinary use of his house, as he does not require so great a sum, but to continue his usual bribery, with which he augments his credit and helps his negotiations.

Every day I receive offers from some English or Scottish subject to come and serve the republic with a number of men. I thank

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them for their goodwill, and while refraining from giving them any hope, I contrive to encourage them in their purpose, since need may arise for the employment of some of them, and we may be able to use them in some way.

London, the 24th November, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 24.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**525.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

On 14th July last I sent an account of the expenses for carrying letters begun before the death of the ambassador and paid by his sons before their departure. I have not yet heard that the order has been removed, and I beg your Excellencies to see that this is done in conformity with the said account.

London, the 24th November, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 25.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**526.** To the SECRETARY IN ENGLAND.

The last reply of the governor to the duke of Savoy proposed evacuation by the Spaniards, and a mutual restitution of places without any other security for his Highness or the republic from the Spanish arms except the word of the pope and of the Most Christian king, as they refuse to dismiss a single soldier and declare that the ministers of Milan will never consent to this. This shows that they desire sovereignty over all; His Highness declares he would rather perish than disarm, since his neighbours have powerful armies. He desires war or disarmament conformable to the treaty of Asti. The Cardinal has withdrawn to Pavia and M. Bethune to Turin, awaiting instructions. By what the Secretary Vincenti writes Bethune desires to come to Venice to arrange a settlement between us and the archduke, but he desired to be accompanied by the Spanish ministers, without whom he did not anticipate any success. But the Spaniards do not desire peace, though they profess to. We send this for information. We hear that the duke of Nemours is reconciled with Prince Vittorio, who is bringing forces into Piedmont. Frequent skirmishes take place between our forces and those of the archduke.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Turin, Florence, Milan, the Hague, Zurich, Padavin, Mantua, Naples, Constantinople.

Ayes 159.

Noes 1.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

Nov. 25.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**527.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The duke told me that he was going to send a gentleman to England immediately with a letter in his own hand, describing the state of affairs, the absence of any reasonable hope of peace, the pride and*

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*obstinacy of the Spaniards in crushing Italy with their powerful forces, and the grave dangers run by the friends and servants of His Majesty of remaining under the stroke of the unjust designs of most arrogant ministers. He will beg for help, show the most urgent need for it, and will not forget the obligations and promise made by His Majesty. The bearer will leave immediately.*

*The duke also told me that he had decided to send a solemn embassy to France, an ambassador to the States and another to the Princes of Germany; but as all this will involve great expense I do not think he will undertake so many things. However, it is settled as regards England and France, and from these he expects great things.*

Turin, the 25th November, 1616.

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

Nov. 28.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**528.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The archbishop of Spalato left for London on Friday. He did not sleep in the house of the English ambassador, though he spent almost all his time there. Prince Maurice wished to have him to dinner. Almost everyone was curious to know the truth about his coming to these parts. From one of his manifestoes they do not think it certain that he has changed his religion. He had this printed at Heidelberg and I enclose a copy, though your Excellencies will probably have seen it. He has also had it reprinted here, so as to have it ready to distribute when he reaches England.

On the Monday following his arrival he called upon me in the English ambassador's carriage. I thought it better not to refuse to see him. He told me that his duty as a subject of your Serenity had led him to come, and he had told you the cause of his departure. He showed great disgust with the pope and wished me to understand that he had not changed his religion. He had decided to seek the protection of the king of England to save his life. I said that I could not approve of his decision in thus leaving his natural protectors. He answered in general terms. I will do the same when anything is said about him, and I will await instructions.

The Hague, the 28th November, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Nov. 29.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**529.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The duke said to me that it was hopeless to expect reason from the Spaniards except by offering a strong opposition. It was necessary to draw closer the bonds with the princes of Germany, the States, and the king of England. The Spaniards treat us worse than they treated the people of Flanders, when they were their subjects. It will be a good thing to follow their example, as they defended themselves with the support of France and England, and by the steady support of those crowns the Dutch obtained peace, with so much honour and glory, and the firm determination to keep it for ever.*

Turin, the 29th November, 1616.

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

1616.  
Dec. 1.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

530. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

This week the Count of Scarnafigi has been informed of the precise quantity of the munitions granted by His Majesty to help the duke of Savoy. It amounts to 20 lasts of powder, that is 48 thousand, twenty tons of matches for cannon and 20 of lead, orders being given that a merchant, Burlamacchi, shall pretend to buy them of the king and sell them to the ambassador, so that the Spaniards may not have cause to take offence. The ambassador is amazed that after such long negotiations, so many prolongations and consultations, they have arrived at such feeble results, which he calls the labour of the mountain. He has returned to the Secretary Winwood and spoken and complained to him, as your Excellencies will see by the enclosed paper, which he drew up and which was presented to the king. This representation has done this much—that the quantity of powder has been doubled and now amounts to 96 thousand, and with the lead and matches the gift may be worth about 20,000 ducats, a very small thing, considering His Majesty's obligations, his great promises and the needs of His Highness. But it has been obtained with great difficulty and by virtue of the labours and representations which your Excellencies have heard of before.

The individual whom the ambassador is sending to Piedmont has not yet started, and he is staying until they have got these munitions out of the Tower and they have begun to embark them, as owing to the ready changing of the wind here they fear that some fresh accident may prevent the carrying out even of this little assistance. The person whom he is using by the king's licence and who will set out on Saturday morning is the Signor Giovanni Francesco Biondi of Liesena, a gentleman pensioned by His Majesty but a subject of your Excellencies who remains whole heartedly devoted to your service. He told me all the instructions which he had received from the ambassador. In addition to taking word to the duke of all the negotiations up to the present, *and of the little hope that there is for the future, he is to tell His Highness that the Spanish ambassador recently informed the king that no prince in the world can have more influence than His Majesty with the Catholic king for settling the differences with the duke. This has raised His Majesty's hopes that it may be so. Accordingly in his last audience of the count of Scarnafes he said that he was inclined to send a special person to Spain to treat for an accommodation, and, therefore, if His Highness really wishes for peace he will endeavour to obtain it for him, and if he does not succeed His Majesty will join with the princes of Germany and the States, so that all may do their part, and in this way form a good body of help to support the duke. The ambassador decided to inform His Highness of this at once and await his reply, so that the king may have time to act as he promises before he begins his journey to Scotland. Every day His Majesty wishes this to be considered as certain at the earliest opportunity, although many believe that he will not go before June, because if he starts before he will not find sufficient grass to provide fodder for such a quantity of horses.*

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Biondi also has orders to inform His Highness of the offices which I have performed with His Majesty and the ministers by the instructions of your Serenity, which the ambassador heard not only from my account but from His Majesty's own lips. This will increase the obligations of the duke to the republic, when he sees how your Excellencies are labouring for his service. He is also to press strongly for leave for the ambassador to return home. He tells His Highness that if leave is not granted to him by March he will leave of his own accord, as he has suffered so much in mind and body by all these vexations that he can bear it no longer; and what is more important, he is so weighted with expenses and debts that he no longer knows how to maintain himself, as during the two years which he has passed here he has never received any money from the duke, but has always maintained himself, thus supplying the need of His Highness from his own property, in the carriage of letters, the sending of couriers and other things.

His Majesty has recently written to Lord Roos in Spain, telling him, in addition to the first instructions which he took with him, to insist with the king upon the carrying out of the treaty of Asti. If this is not done, the king of England says that he will not be able to abandon the duke, but he will take steps to make war upon Spain.

120,000 ducats have been paid to the employés upon the royal ships, and His Majesty has directed that a good number of them shall be put in trim, so that they say that by Easter twenty of them will be armed.

London, the 1st December, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

### 531. Letter of the COUNT OF SCARNAFIGI to the KING.

I hoped when I received the munitions that I should have no further occasion to importune your Majesty, but my jealousy for your Majesty's honour and my own would render me culpable if I refrained. His Majesty knows that through his royal word, beyond all other obligations of the treaty of Asti, His Highness is involved in great dangers to which he would not have been exposed had not His Majesty declared that he would make war if the Spaniards did not observe the treaty of Asti.

His Majesty told me the same at Wanstead, when I asked him to advise His Highness upon the negotiations of M. de Bethune.

At Windsor His Majesty told me that he was awaiting Bethune's negotiations to make sure of the non-observance of the treaty. I gave two documents, which were shown to the Spanish ambassador. At Hampton Court His Majesty said that if M. de Bethune did not procure a good result, he would decide openly, but that he had given orders that the munitions should be consigned to me.

The Secretary Winwood, when I asked him, said that His Majesty thought this would be a matter of small moment, and he proposed to give royal help which he would discuss in the Council. He therefore begged me to have patience.

After this Council His Majesty told me that they had unanimously decided to help His Highness. I showed how advantageous

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it would be for His Majesty to send men to Piedmont and ships to our shores. He asked me to put my thoughts in writing. I did so and gave the document to the Secretary Winwood. I have received no reply.

When I was expecting munitions in a quantity proportionate to the obligations of the treaty and a promise to declare war on the Spaniards, they were consigned in a furtive manner to Sig. Burlamacchi, so that His Highness can receive no advantage in prestige. The quantity accorded is so insignificant that I cannot believe that it has been given by the order of the king or the Council. I therefore beg your Majesty to provide a remedy without delay, so that your assistance may not be a jest among your enemies. I assure your Majesty that there is no more certain road to the peace of Italy than the aspect of your Majesty standing ready, to maintain the liberty of Europe and the security of your servants and friends.

[Italian.]

Dec. 1.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispaoli.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

532. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*With regard to the orders given me to ascertain the monthly cost of having three or four armed ships to use for war in case of need, I have used every effort, and so far as I can understand the cost would vary according to the way in which your Serenity would use the ships, and according to the service in which they were employed. If you only proposed to use them for guarding the coasts or some parts of the sea, and only to fight with other ships of war without any other profit than their wages, and without liberty to molest the enemies of the republic and try their fortune by making prizes, the entire cost would fall upon the purse of your Serenity. But if your Excellencies should have open war with anyone, and especially with the king of Spain, and would permit them to attack their ships and shores, your Serenity would obtain ships in any quantity from these kingdoms, at little or no cost, but with the hope of considerable gain (quando l'Ecc. VV. habbino aperta guerra con qualcheduno, et in particolare col re di Spagna, si contentassero di permetterli, che offendessero le sue navi et le sue riviere haverebbe la Serenità Vestra da questi regni rasselli in quella quantità che più sapesse desiderare con poca o niuna spesa ma anzi con speranza di gran guadagno).*

*The quality of the vessels to serve in the Mediterranean for war should be from 160 to 200 tons. If your Excellencies employed these in the first manner, paying them with your money, it would be difficult to find anyone here willing to hire, and even if you did find them it would be better worth while to spend 2,500 ducats in buying an old ship and 1,500 ducats in arming it with other arms and necessities, than to pay the hire. In order to keep them in good order it is necessary to have a hundred men for each, of all ranks, whose food, wages, and all other necessities would amount to 800 crowns a month or rather less, without including the munitions for fighting, which vary according to the occasion. In any case, whether the vessels are hired or bought, they would be cheaper at Amsterdam, where they would cost somewhat less, owing to the extraordinary numbers of ships always to*

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be found in that port and the greater quantity of timber for building, and the English merchants and pirates themselves are accustomed to provide themselves in those parts.

If your Serenity chose the second manner and had war with the king of Spain, simply granting your flag, and freedom to come and sell the plunder at Venice, naming an English general to command all the ships, so many would hasten to your service that they would inflict great harm on your enemies, without your Serenity having to think about arming them or the expense of maintaining them, as they would observe their usual proceedings when this kingdom made war upon the Spaniards, which was to divide the expenses into three parts, and to divide the profits accordingly. Thus if your Serenity incurred one third of the cost, you would receive a third of the gains, and if you wished to have nothing to do with it, there might not be wanting those who would possibly take everything upon themselves, as this is the way in which the kingdom of England has become rich, and in which they would desire to continue to fight against the Spaniards, as private individuals are continually offering themselves to make war on the king of Spain if His Majesty will agree, without any expense or trouble to him (*per il secondo modo di servirsene se Vestra Serenità haresse guerra col Re di Spagna, et volesse concedere solamente li suoi stendardi et Piazza libera per venir a render a Venezia le prede, nominando un general Inglese, che comandasse a tutti li vasselli, ne concorrerebbono tanti al suo servizio, che darebbono molto danno à suoi nemici senza che Vestra Serenità haresse alcun pensiero in armarli o spesa in mantenerli, perche vorrebbero questi tener il modo, che si costumava quando questo Regno faceva la guerra con Spagnuoli, ch'è di divider la spesa in tre parti et applicar anco il guadagno pro rata, onde se Vestra Serenità volesse haver una delle parte della spesa, haverebbe anco quella dell'utile; et se non ne volesse saper altro, non vi mancherebbe forse chi prenderebbe il tutto in se, poiche questo è il modo col qual il Regno d'Inghilterra s'è arricchito, et nel quale desiderarebbono di continuare a guerreggiare con Spagnuoli, offerendosi continuamente li particolari sudditi di far essi la guerra al Re di Spagna, quando Sua Maestà se ne contenti, senza che essa faccia alcun spesa o ne senti alcun pregiudicio).*

This is one of the chief reasons why Lord Dingwall came to offer himself, as he proposed to take advantage of ships, if your Serenity desired any, to take him out of the kingdom, to do harm to the Catholic king, scattering his people outside Spain, in the strait, in Sicily, Naples, and the dependant islands, against merchant ships, and attacking them under the flag of your Serenity, so that the damage would have been very great. The king, so this nobleman assured me, had promised to shut his eyes and pretend not to see anything, as he could easily excuse himself to the Spaniards by saying that they were the men of the republic who were living on its pay. For this reason His Majesty was greatly astonished that your Excellencies did not accept so good a chance of advancing your affairs with your enemy, who is seeking to consume you by degrees, as the only way to make them walk more circumspectly in their affairs is to occasionally take the fire to their own house, make them feel the evils of war and not wait for them to be always the first to begin war and initiate peace when it suits them (*quest'è una delle principali*



1616.

*intentioni con che era venuto ad offerirsi a Vestra Serenità il Sig. Baron Dinguen, poiche haveva in animo di prevalersi, se Vestra Serenità havesse voluto delli vasselli, che conducera fuori del Regno a danni del Re Cattolico sbandando le sue genti in Spagna fuori et dentro del stretto in Sicilia, in Napoli et nell 'Isole suddite, contra navi di mercantia, et offendendo così gagliardamente con li stendardi di Vestra Serenità che il danno sarebbe grandissimo, et il suo Re, per quanto il detto Barone m'hà conferito, haveva promesso di chiuder li occhi, et mostrar di non avedersene, potendosi assai bene iscusar con Spagnuoli, che quelli erano genti della Serma Rep<sup>ma</sup> Rep<sup>ca</sup>, et che riverano a suo soldo, et per ciò, Sua Maestà si è molto meravigliato che dall Ecc<sup>ca</sup> VV. non sia stata accettato occasion così grande di far ben i fatti loro con quell' inimicio, che cerca di consumarle à poco à poco, perche l'unica strada di farlo caminar più circonspetto ne'suoi affari è di portarli tal volta il foco in casa, farli sentir il danno della guerra et non attender ch'egli sia sempre quello che promovi le guerre et componi le paci, quando le torna a conto).*

*The baron added that in future His Majesty will not be so easy in granting to any of his subjects such authority as he conceded to him. But if matters between your Excellencies and the king of Spain should come to such a pass, as I pray God they may not, that you should decide to discharge your own ills upon the head of your enemy, I hope that you would always be able to enjoy this advantage even without the consent of the king and his council, because if your Serenity, without letting your intentions become known, should take a certain number of ships from this kingdom under the pretext of conveying men to Italy, with a general to command them, and should grant your flag and a free place to all others who might join them, there would be a great rush both from England and Holland among merchants and others who would try to advance their fortunes, and the king and council would be powerless to prevent them. A royal fleet would be formed, which would create a considerable diversion for the attention of the king of Spain, since they would enter his own dominions and would make them experience the ills which the people here know how to inflict by the experience of past wars. Your Excellencies may judge how great would be the profit of our city and of all the other subject sea towns, as the booty would be sold there at an extremely low price. Some of these persons are already disposed to come, and before receiving the flag of St. Mark they would give excellent security in London to render the most complete obedience to your Serenity and your general and not to attack any but those whom they are ordered to attack. I have discussed this with the person who has spoken to me in such a way as not to excite suspicion of the slightest inclination, but if your Excellencies should think of it, I might go more deeply into the affair and send further particulars.*

London, the 1st December, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

Dec. 2.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

533. To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.

Your last letters of the 4th November have reached us. From one you will see that peace is despaired of and war necessary. Such is the condition to which the Spaniards have reduced Italy. We send you a copy of what we propose to lay before His Majesty's

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ambassador here. We direct you to obtain an audience as soon as possible and, by using the information which you have, to urge His Majesty to a strong declaration and effective action, which are required by his dignity and the general good, which he is bound by his promise in the treaty of Asti to give help to the duke of Savoy, whose cause is the common cause and whose fall would gravely prejudice every one, even the greater and more distant powers.

In this connection you will say that the States well recognise the importance of these affairs to the generality. They show great friendliness towards the duke of Savoy and our republic and our obligations towards them are greatly increased. Of our confidence in His Majesty you will say whatever you think will put him in the humour to do something useful. As the duke of Savoy has decided to send an extraordinary ambassador, you will have a good understanding with him when he arrives and will support his requests for help.

If there are any ministers or ambassadors of the Elector Palatine, the king of Denmark or other princes whom you think likely, you will inform them of current events, as a sign of confidence and to obtain what advantages you may, expressing our determination to defend our liberty, since the Spaniards are determined upon war.

We are gratified at the offices performed by Lord Dingwall with you, and we highly value his offers. When you see him we desire you to thank him, express our esteem and say that we shall be glad to take advantage of his services when need arises. We would inform you also that when he came to Venice to offer his services, we understood that he would not bind himself unless there was an effective levy of 6,000 foot and he would be under no obligation either for the ships or the voyage, and consequently nothing further was done.

Ayes 166.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 2.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**534.** That the English Ambassador be summoned to the Cabinet, and that the following be read to him :

To our representations to His Majesty upon the events in Italy the Spaniards have always cunningly opposed the idea of negotiations, raising hopes of a near peace. But matters are now in such a state that even they cannot deny that all prospect of an agreement is hopeless, and it is necessary to resist their ambitions by war. Don Pedro made such exorbitant demands that the ambassadors of the mediating princes did not venture to show them to the duke. The governor of Milan opposed the excellent idea of M. de Bethune to come and mediate between the republic and the archduke, saying that he did not wish the French to interfere in any manner. They do everything to lull to sleep the other princes and prevent them applying that attention to the affairs of Italy that is urgently required, as the Spaniards wish to rule alone, so that all may be dependent upon their wishes, and instead of working for general peace, they disturb negotiations, threaten war everywhere and use every effort to induce M. de Bethune to return to France.

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Affairs are therefore in such a desperate condition that a remedy must be applied without delay. We beg your Excellency to represent this state of affairs to His Majesty, who certainly will no longer allow himself to be deluded by vain hopes of peace, and who, we feel sure, will not allow the Spaniards to oppress the duke of Savoy, and, after him, the rest of Italy. For our part we are doing what we can to help Savoy, although we are occupied elsewhere at a very heavy cost, and we recognize that the assistance of His Majesty is necessary for that prince. We are sure that there is no longer time for delay; and representations must be accompanied by acts that are worthy of the influence and greatness of His Majesty.

Ayes 166.

Noes 0.

Neutrals 2.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 2.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**535. To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.**

We have to tell you that the governor has tried to persuade Bethune to return to France and not come to Venice to arrange an agreement. Bethune has related all this to Their Most Christian Majesties, and is awaiting orders. The duke of Savoy had taken Moncuco in Montferrat, recovered Salizuola in Piedmont and acquired some places in Montferrat. Don Pedro has withdrawn to Montferrat, with some confusion. They are much displeased by the agreement between Savoy and Nemours, knowing what vigour this will give to the duke. We hear in letters of the 26th that the troops of prince Vittorio and succours from M. Lesdiguières continue to arrive in Piedmont, and the duke has gone to assemble them and make some attempt. His Highness is sending ambassadors to France and England, to give any account of the state of affairs in Italy and ask for help.

Our troops in Friuli have had a skirmish with the enemy, who were repulsed. In Istria our general has destroyed a quantity of the enemy's stores. This is for information to use as you see fit.

We have told that, on hearing how the governor sought to separate the peace of Savoy from our accommodation, we resolved to send an express courier to Spain to our ambassador there, to represent the true state of affairs to His Majesty and ask him to instruct his ministers in Italy to have a general conference to treat for a general peace.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Turin, Mantua, the Hague, Zurich, Padavin, Milan, Naples, Florence, Constantinople.

Ayes 160.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

1616.  
Dec. 3.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**536. SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador at Rome, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Yesterday the pope said to me, We believe that your masters have an ambassador of England for negotiating with that king, and not to subvert and seduce their subjects, especially bishops, making them fall into apostacy, as in the recent case of the Archbishop of Spalato, whose flight he had a hand in, as he was accompanied by an Englishman. We beg your masters to speak seriously to that ambassador, that he desist from such improper action and that he do not circulate the books of that de Dominis. His Holiness spoke with great heat, and I promised to do as he requested, assuring him of our devotion to religion.

Rome, the 3rd December, 1616.

[Italian.]

Dec. 4.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Constant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**537. ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*The Imperial ambassadors were very dissatisfied because none of the other ambassadors here had called upon them. They made representations to the Pasha, who sent a buginodi and a chiaus to all the ambassadors, bringing word that the Imperial ambassadors were about to leave and we ought to conform to the ancient custom and call upon them. This order created no little astonishment, as it were forcing an act of courtesy by violence. We sent to ask the reason, and the Pasha replied that the ambassadors said it was a custom never omitted, and they would be disgraced if it were not observed, so that he was compelled to oblige them. I was in some doubt, but decided finally to follow the example of France and England.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 4th December, 1616.

[Italian ; deciphered.]

Dec. 4.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**538. PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The Secretary of England has been to tell me of the offices he has performed for Savoy and the reply he received from the duke of Lerma. He first spoke of the requests of the duke to His Majesty for assistance, which he was obliged to render by the treaty of Asti, or else to ask the Catholic king to order his ministers in Italy to cease from the great preparations for war which they are making against him, and remove the cause for fresh conflicts. He afterwards begged His Majesty to order his ministers to give complete effect to the treaty of Asti, and so relieve him of the necessity of helping His Highness, as he is bound to do by the treaty.

The duke of Lerma replied that the decision to make war on the duke did not arise from any desire of his king to enlarge his dominions in Italy, as he knew that he would have to restore them to the sons, but simply for his honour's and interest's sake. His Majesty would have preferred a peaceful way as he is far from desiring war, least of all with Christian princes of his own blood. He said how great prejudice His Majesty had suffered from the duke,

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who obliged him to keep an army in Italy for three years running, which he could have employed more profitably elsewhere. The duke had always been an unquiet spirit, continually disturbing the world, and the Venetians were now egging him on and helping him to ruin himself.

Here the secretary remarked that the republic was always considered to be a power desirous of peace, that your war with the archduke was for a just cause because of the help his ministers gave to the Uscochi, and because he had never executed the treaty of Vienna. He said that as you were helping the duke it was probably to prevent His Majesty from helping his cousin.

The duke of Lerma replied that the help was beyond question, but he hoped the affair of your Excellencies would soon be settled. The secretary said that according to his information, although the republic has always been inclined for peace, you have not been met by the archduke. I thanked the secretary for the confidence he had shown to me. I afterwards suggested to him *that the hopes they throw out about peace are a simple artifice to divert his king from thinking of measures for the general welfare, as the duke knows well how much His Majesty will be angered that the ministers of the Catholic king do everything to prevent the republic from obtaining help, while the Governor of Milan has a large armed force, which is only intended to make you bow to the will of the Spaniards, even if they have not still greater designs, as their last levies of Swiss were definitely stated to be to serve against the republic.* The latest news from Italy did not give the slightest promise of peace.

Madrid, the 4th December, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Dec. 4.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**539.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The gentleman has left for England with the dispatch of which I wrote on the 25th. God grant that it may produce good results.

Turin, the 4th December, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 6.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Svizzeri e  
Grisoni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**540.** AGOSTINO DOLCE, Venetian Resident with the Swiss and Grisons, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The baron of Spietz writes to me from Berne that an ambassador has arrived there from the duke of Savoy to negotiate a league between His Highness and the Bernese. A favourable result is expected, although there are difficulties. The present necessities of the duke may induce him to remove his pretensions to the pays du Vaud, because by this means he will open an uninterrupted path for the men whom he desires from Germany, the Low Countries and England, who could pass through the states of Protestant powers only to Savoy.

Zurich, the 6th December, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

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Dec. 7.  
Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

541. The deliberation of the Senate of the 2nd inst. was read to the Ambassador of England. He said :

I thank your Serenity and your Excellencies for honouring me with this information upon the state of your affairs. Since the first occasion I have not ceased to make lively representations to His Majesty concerning them, and I will do so again. The king's Secretary, who has charge of the affairs of state, wrote to me by the last courier that the king was away from London, but that the matter would be specially laid before him on his return and a resolution taken worthy of him. I, therefore, hope that your Serenity will receive the reply as from a true friend. With regard to the negotiations in Piedmont, I say that the matter itself is difficult and the materials suspect. Bethune was suspected by the Spaniards and the cardinal by the duke of Savoy. Thus as the armies in the field were very costly and had drawn blood, it did not seem to me that success was probable. As matters now stand, if we cannot have peace we must prepare for war. If my wishes count for anything, I should call to mind what I have insisted upon at other times, that there can be no better method than a balance of power ; I should advise or rather wish your Serenity to join with the princes of Germany. A good foundation has already been laid in the friendship with the Low Countries. And indeed the Count John Ernest of Nassau is a worthy man. If I had to choose a prince of the House of Nassau I should hold up my hands for him. I have had the opportunity to know him intimately. He is brave and good, not rash like some others, but prudent and discreet. He comes with excellent troops and full numbers, as each captain will bring 12 or 15 additional men to supply the places of those who fall by the way. Among his principal officers is an English gentleman, acting as sergeant major of all the troops. He belongs to the family of the earls of Oxford (*Ossogna*), one of the principal houses of England and one of the principal councillors of the crown.\* My friends write that there will be other Englishmen among the other officers, who have obtained leave to come, and I hope that they will bear themselves so well that your Serenity will have cause to wish for more English, in which His Majesty will always be ready to oblige you.

I remember at this point that I have heard that the duke of Mantua has become suspicious of the Spaniards, because negotiations have taken place between Giovanni Vives, ambassador of Spain at Genoa, and Don Alfonso Davalos, Governor of Montferrat. But I think we shall need considerable craft to augment that feeling. When the king, in sending me here, honoured me with his instructions for the affairs of Germany and Italy, he told me that he considered the reconciliation of the houses of Savoy and Mantua to be an essential point, which ought to benefit both. He gave me letters of credence for both of them. I presented those to the duke of Savoy on my way here, executing certain commissions there. The credentials for Mantua were given under the reserve that the duke of Savoy should consent, and that I should rule myself in accordance with the state of the negotiations with Mantua. They are still in my hands, and though they are old and

\* Sir John Vere.

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it would be good to procure new instructions from His Majesty, yet some good may be hoped for. I am ready to spend my poor voice if it be any good. I know that there has been much bitterness and the passions of the friends have been stirred, but perhaps they may be more easily reconciled now, since a common danger obliterates private passions. But I leave this to the prudence of your Serenity.

Before I leave I have a commission to fulfil for the duke of Saxony. By some carelessness or the negligence of his friends, he is left here without provisions, awaiting the return of a gentleman sent for them. Thus he remains at anchor with his hands bound, as it is not possible to voyage without sails or to travel without money. He is zealous for the service of your Serenity, and his request seems reasonable to me, as I have heard that when you accepted the service of the Count of Levestein, he was to have so much for each soldier coming by sea and so much by land. The duke asks for the same.

The doge replied: Although you received the news from other quarters, yet we judged it good to impart it to you as a sign of confidence. With regard to what your Excellency has said, when anything happens we will take it into consideration. This council will also consider the matter of the duke of Saxony.

With that the ambassador rose and took leave.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**542.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The young merchant from Constantinople only reached England at the beginning of the week, by whom the Ambassador Wotton was to send post, as he said in the Cabinet, to the king here the offices which he recently passed with your Serenity. The reason for his delay is that he was detained for some time in Heidelberg. As soon as he reached London he took Wotton's letters to the Secretary Winwood, who at once sent them to Newmarket, where His Majesty now is. This morning he set out thither himself, and I cannot know anything about what Wotton has written before his return, and I do not know when that will be.

The same merchant gave me a packet from your Serenity with duplicates of letters of the 28th October, which I had received long before. When Winwood returns to London I shall take the opportunity of answering or informing, and shall regulate everything I say in accordance with the reply of the Senate to the Ambassador Wotton.

The merchant also gave me a packet from your Serenity for the Secretary Surian at the Hague. I have had to keep it until to-day, as the courier of Flanders had left. I am sending it to Antwerp with this despatch; your Excellencies will know the reason of its late arrival.

This week I have also received your Serenity's letters of the 11th November, with a copy of two paragraphs from the letters of the Ambassador Giustinian upon the negotiations of the Cardinal and of the Ambassador Bethune, with news of Friuli and

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Dec. 3.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**536. SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador at Rome, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Yesterday the pope said to me, We believe that your masters have an ambassador of England for negotiating with that king, and not to subvert and seduce their subjects, especially bishops, making them fall into apostacy, as in the recent case of the Archbishop of Spalato, whose flight he had a hand in, as he was accompanied by an Englishman. We beg your masters to speak seriously to that ambassador, that he desist from such improper action and that he do not circulate the books of that de Dominis. His Holiness spoke with great heat, and I promised to do as he requested, assuring him of our devotion to religion.

Rome, the 3rd December, 1616.

[Italian.]

Dec. 4.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Constant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**537. ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*The Imperial ambassadors were very dissatisfied because none of the other ambassadors here had called upon them. They made representations to the Pasha, who sent a buginodi and a chiaus to all the ambassadors, bringing word that the Imperial ambassadors were about to leave and we ought to conform to the ancient custom and call upon them. This order created no little astonishment, as it were forcing an act of courtesy by violence. We sent to ask the reason, and the Pasha replied that the ambassadors said it was a custom never omitted, and they would be disgraced if it were not observed, so that he was compelled to oblige them. I was in some doubt, but decided finally to follow the example of France and England.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 4th December, 1616.

[Italian ; deciphered.]

Dec. 4.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**538. PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The Secretary of England has been to tell me of the offices he has performed for Savoy and the reply he received from the duke of Lerma. He first spoke of the requests of the duke to His Majesty for assistance, which he was obliged to render by the treaty of Asti, or else to ask the Catholic king to order his ministers in Italy to cease from the great preparations for war which they are making against him, and remove the cause for fresh conflicts. He afterwards begged His Majesty to order his ministers to give complete effect to the treaty of Asti, and so relieve him of the necessity of helping His Highness, as he is bound to do by the treaty.

The duke of Lerma replied that the decision to make war on the duke did not arise from any desire of his king to enlarge his dominions in Italy, as he knew that he would have to restore them to the sons, but simply for his honour's and interest's sake. His Majesty would have preferred a peaceful way as he is far from desiring war, least of all with Christian princes of his own blood. He said how great prejudice His Majesty had suffered from the duke,



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who obliged him to keep an army in Italy for three years running, which he could have employed more profitably elsewhere. The duke had always been an unquiet spirit, continually disturbing the world, and the Venetians were now egging him on and helping him to ruin himself.

Here the secretary remarked that the republic was always considered to be a power desirous of peace, that your war with the archduke was for a just cause because of the help his ministers gave to the Uscochi, and because he had never executed the treaty of Vienna. He said that as you were helping the duke it was probably to prevent His Majesty from helping his cousin.

The duke of Lerma replied that the help was beyond question, but he hoped the affair of your Excellencies would soon be settled. The secretary said that according to his information, although the republic has always been inclined for peace, you have not been met by the archduke. I thanked the secretary for the confidence he had shown to me. I afterwards suggested to him *that the hopes they throw out about peace are a simple artifice to divert his king from thinking of measures for the general welfare, as the duke knows well how much His Majesty will be angered that the ministers of the Catholic king do everything to prevent the republic from obtaining help, while the Governor of Milan has a large armed force, which is only intended to make you bow to the will of the Spaniards, even if they have not still greater designs, as their last leries of Swiss were definitely stated to be to serve against the republic.* The latest news from Italy did not give the slightest promise of peace.

Madrid, the 4th December, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Dec. 4.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**539.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The gentleman has left for England with the dispatch of which I wrote on the 25th. God grant that it may produce good results.

Turin, the 4th December, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 6.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Svizzeri e  
Grisoni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**540.** AGOSTINO DOLCE, Venetian Resident with the Swiss and Grisons, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The baron of Spietz writes to me from Berne that an ambassador has arrived there from the duke of Savoy to negotiate a league between His Highness and the Bernese. A favourable result is expected, although there are difficulties. The present necessities of the duke may induce him to remove his pretensions to the pays du Vaud, because by this means he will open an uninterrupted path for the men whom he desires from Germany, the Low Countries and England, who could pass through the states of Protestant powers only to Savoy.

Zurich, the 6th December, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

1616.

The king is now hunting at Newmarket, and will come to London for Christmas, when I pray God for all happiness for your Serenity and your Excellencies.

London, the 8th December, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 9.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**544.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.

Enclose the reply of the English ambassador to the office read to him here. This is for information. With regard to what you write us in letters of the 17th ult. about what His Majesty said in reply to the representations made to him, that there ought to be a truce and the affairs of Italy settled, our letters will have shown how little ground there is for this, and you will continually assert that all hopes for peace are vain and they are fostered by the Spaniards for their own purposes.

Ayes 156.

Noes 2.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 9.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**545.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

The latest news from Turin, of the 2nd and 4th inst., states that the duke is indisposed, but hopes soon to be well again. At the same time he does not neglect his affairs, and prince Vittorio is carrying out the arrangements with great vigour, showing himself a worthy son of his father. The troops of the prince and of Lesdiguieres begin to arrive in Piedmont. It is said that they will amount to 10,000 foot, 600 cuirassiers and 600 carabineers. The Spaniards have withdrawn to quarters in Montferrat and only hold San Germano in Piedmont, which it is expected they will abandon, as they fear these new forces of His Highness.

There is nothing fresh in our affairs. Don Giovanni de' Medici left yesterday for Friuli to take up his charge. Prince Luigi of Este has come to this city.

The augmentation of 100 crowns a month voted for you is a solatium and also a matter of justice, so that you may not be deprived of the emoluments granted to others.

The like to the Imperial Court, the Hague, Rome, Spain, France, Milan, Naples, Florence, Zurich, Padavin, Mantua, Constantinople.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 10.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**546.** To the AMBASSADOR at ROME.

Our deputies upon heresy have been asked by the papal nuncio to publish an index of some books published by the Congregation of the Inquisition of Rome. After taking the opinion of Father Paolo we have decided as you will see by the enclosed copy.

With regard to the complaint made by the pope against the ambassador of England resident in this city, you will assure His Holiness that he lives very quietly, both because it is his nature

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and from hints which we have given to him at other times, and he creates no scandal of any kind. We are very careful in this particular.

With regard to the archbishop of Spalato we are certain that it was not a suggestion of the ambassador, but his own evil thought, rooted in his mind. We inform you for your own use that we hear that the archbishop arrived at the Hague on the 20th ult., and was received in the house of the English ambassador there.

Ayes 77.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[Italian.]

Dec. 10.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

547. To the LIEUTENANT of the COUNTRY OF FRIULI.

The Congregation of the Inquisition of Rome has asked the inquisitor of this city to prohibit some few books. We direct you, if asked about this, to reply in the form of our answer to the nuncio. With regard to the manifesto of the archbishop of Spalato, you will prohibit it.

The like to Padua, Vicenza, Verona, Bressa, Bergamo, Crema, Rovigo, Treviso, Feltre, Cividale, Chiozza, Capodistria.

Ayes 70.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[Italian.]

Dec. 10.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

548. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The king of Great Britain has always had in hand the negotiations touching Cleves and Juliers, as your Serenity knows. He has frequently sounded the States to induce them to withdraw their troops from Emmerich and Rees. Seeing that they would not or could not do this for various reasons or under various pretexts, his ambassador finally went into the assembly of the States General last Saturday. I enclose a copy of his exposition. They made a general complimentary reply, reserving their answer until after they had deliberated upon so important a matter.

The ambassador subsequently communicated everything to the resident of the Margrave of Brandenburg, and when I called on the ambassador, he told me also. He further promised to let me know the reply of the States immediately it was given. He felt sure that it would be in conformity with their desire for the execution of the treaty of Zanten, that if there has been some hesitation in the past, now the Spaniards are profuse in their promises to the king to carry it out. *I could not refrain from asking him if he really thought that the Spaniards meant this, as it would be quite in accordance with their nature, when February was gone, to protest that they would never restore anything. He replied that he could not say. The Spanish ambassador had indeed made large offers to his king, but he was bound to confess that the Spaniards were crafty. They propose negotiations when it is not convenient to act, and he had observed that*

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*they begin negotiations in December and carry them on until March, when they take the field. They act during the summer. If their designs succeed, well and good, if not, they take up negotiations again. He said that other powers should do the same, and now it is winter they should be countermining, but it seems that they never agree except to wait upon necessity when a remedy could not so easily be applied. He added that he hoped the States would decide in accordance with their prudence. He went on to say that while things are in their present state, the king, his master, the States and the princes of Germany chiefly concerned are obliged to consider what may happen in these parts, and they cannot apply their minds to Italy or the service of the republic unless the places are restored mutually to the princes claiming them.*

I told him that I had noticed that he had spoken about Spanish methods, and therefore it was necessary to beware of being deceived by offers and hopes.

The States have always tried for the carrying out of the treaty of Zanten, and this sudden proposal of the Spanish ambassador will rouse their suspicions, and they will examine the affair very carefully before they answer the English ambassador. It is considered certain that they will not do so before the resident of Brandenburg returns from Cleves. He left last Monday, and before starting he came to tell me what had happened. He was sent for by the prince of Brandenburg, son of the Elector, probably upon the matter contained in the enclosed paragraph from a letter of the king of Great Britain, and a more recent letter from the same.

The Hague, the 10th December, 1616.

*[Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.]*

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**549.** COPY of a LETTER from the KING OF GREAT BRITAIN to GEORGE WILLIAM, Margrave of Brandenburg, written on the 10th October, 1616, old style.

We beg you to persuade your son<sup>o</sup> to restore Juliers and the other places occupied, as the king of Spain, by his ambassador, and the Archduke Albert constantly assert that nothing but their detention keeps them from restoring what they occupy and executing the treaty of Xanten.

Your kinsman and friend,

JAMES R.

*[Latin.]*

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**550.** PROPOSALS of the ENGLISH AMBASSADOR to the STATES.

I am charged by my master to speak to your Excellencies upon an important matter. You are aware of his efforts to procure a satisfactory settlement of the difficulties touching Cleves and Juliers. Matters have continually changed aspect, and nothing

\* John Sigismund, margrave of Brandenburg and Elector of the Holy Roman Empire, was the father, and George William, the claimant to the duchies, was the son. There is an obvious confusion here, probably due to the Venetian transcriber. Such confusion is not uncommon in these despatches, and when they mention the margrave of Brandenburg it is not always easy to decide whether they refer to the father or the son. Sometimes it is obviously George William who is meant, though the title of margrave properly belonged to his father only.

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definite has been reached, which has led your Excellencies to persist in demanding the execution of the treaty of Zanten.

His Majesty, some months since, became convinced that the execution of the treaty is the only way out of this maze. The Spanish ambassador has been to him recently and told him that His Catholic Majesty desires nothing so much as the restitution of the places of Cleves and Juliers, which are now occupied by the arch-dukes and your Excellencies, to the claimant princes, and consequently that the treaty of Zanten should be carried out. The ambassador, therefore, begged His Majesty to intercede with you and the other powers interested to arrange a day for the restitution. In order not to hurry unduly a matter of such moment, His Majesty suggests the last day of February next, old style. If you cannot consent to this, the ambassador declares that his master will hold for ever the places which he now occupies; the fortification of Juliers justify his king doing the like at Wesel, so he says, and he does not propose to incur that expense for the profit of others, and when he has fortified it he will never restore it.

These are the proposals of the Spanish ambassador which I am instructed to lay before you. I hope you will take a resolution worthy of your prudence, as it will be to your advantage to accept such an opening, while a refusal will involve war in the unhappy country of Cleves and Juliers.

Delivered in the assembly of the States of the United Provinces of the Low Countries on the 23rd November, old style.

DUDLEY CARLETON.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 12.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Germania.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**551.** ZORZI GIUSTINIAN, Venetian Ambassador in Germany, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The ambassador of Florence receives fairly frequent letters from Madrid from a brother of his who is serving the king and who has a knowledge of fortifications. They are sending him to the strait of Gibraltar to survey the site, with the purpose of erecting forts there, to impose customs and regulate the shipping, and that this idea has arisen since the decision of the republic to take troops that way. *Copy.*

Prague, the 12th December, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 18.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**552.** OTTAVIO BON and VICENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*This seems the time for the Grisons to demand the destruction of Fort Fuentes. If they do not seize this opportunity of extracting the thorn from their foot, they will never have another chance. The lords of Zurich and Berne are sending deputies to the Grisons to urge them not to lose this opportunity. A general diet of all the confederates has been held, at which they decided to send forthwith a solemn embassy to Milan to demand the demolition of the fort. If at the time of the departure of this embassy the lords of Zurich and Berne and the Grisons also make a show of appointing captains for*

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*war, I think it certain that they will obtain all that they want from Milan. If the Grisons are told that in case of a war with the king of Spain, the lords of Zurich and Berne, the king of England, the States and the duke of Savoy will help them, they will readily agree to this line of action.*

Paris, the 18th December, 1616.

[*Italian ; deciphered.*]

Dec. 14.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**553.** PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The secretary of England has reported to me the reply which he received from the ministers to his recent offices. This was substantially that the emperor Charles V. had taken from the French and restored to the duke of Savoy's father the states which had also been defended and preserved by the late king, but he had ill returned these benefits. That His Majesty asked no more than an apology from the duke. The Secretary Cerisa added that the Venetians were very prudently working their affairs at the expense of their neighbour.

In a few days the ambassador from England will be here, who is coming about the marriages. He will have instructions to negotiate about Piedmont and to urge peace. The secretary, in speaking to me about it *asked me to keep it very secret, that if he does not obtain a satisfactory reply His Majesty is determined to help the duke with men and money.* It is said that he also has instructions to negotiate a marriage between the prince of England and the princess Maria. They would probably listen readily to this in spite of the question of religion, *in order to prevent the king there from taking any resolutions prejudicial to the interests of the Spaniards ;* especially as even if they decided the matter now, they could not carry out the affair for some years owing to the tender age of the princess. I have told the secretary of these rumours, but he has always denied them, swearing that the ambassador's instructions, which he says he has, say nothing about this matter. He added that the duke of Lerma also had asked him if he had authority to treat of this.

Madrid, the 14th December, 1616.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Dec. 15.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**554.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

As soon as I received your Serenity's letters of the 18th November I wrote to the Secretary Winwood, who was with the court at Newmarket, asking him to procure me an audience of the king, in any place that might suit His Majesty. The ambassador of Savoy wrote to the same effect that very day, as he wishes for another audience in order not to fail in his duty of importuning the king, although he has little hope of effecting anything good. We have not yet received any reply, so I can only wait to execute my instructions until the king grants me leave to go to him.

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Two days before me the resident of Florence sent to Newmarket also to ask for an audience, and none has been appointed. It is not known what business moves him, but after he has gone it may be possible to find out.

I went yesterday to kiss the hands of the Prince of Wales. I presented the letters of your Excellencies and congratulated him upon his new title. He replied graciously and promised on all occasions to show his esteem for the republic. He asked many questions about the present state of the affairs of the world, the war between your Serenity and the archduke and that between the duke of Savoy and the governor of Milan, some particulars about France, and above all, in what consisted the help which your Serenity granted to His Highness. I gave him straightforward answers, which pleased him, and added that powerful help was needed from His Majesty, and how eagerly the duke desired it as well as all the powers who are interested in preserving His Highness.

I wrote the other week that they had begun to load the munitions granted to Savoy, because they had found a ship in which to put them, but the ship proved none too safe and would have run great danger of being taken by pirates, not only risking the loss of the property but to the detriment of those seas, as they would have been employed in fighting merchant ships. Accordingly that bargain has been abandoned, and hitherto, with all their efforts, they have not been able to find a suitable ship on these shores, and therefore the powder remains in the Tower to the great disappointment of the ambassador, who is very anxious to have it in his hands to be quite safe.

The other day the French ambassador sent his secretary to congratulate me upon the good reception of the ambassador Bon at Paris by His Most Christian Majesty upon the affairs of the Grisons, the king permitting the renewal of the league between your Serenity and the lords of the three leagues. I thanked him for the news and remarked how advantageous it would be generally for the defence of Italy. However, I do not know if I can believe it, as hitherto I received no definite news from Paris and the king told me recently that the Secretary Mangot had given the ambassador a bad reply upon this particular.

I have continued my researches in the matter of ships to serve your Excellencies, and I have found a shipmaster who would come and serve your Serenity. One of them gave me the enclosed note about the cost of each ship per month, confirming my opinion that we should find greater advantages at Amsterdam, at less cost.

London, the 15th December, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**555. NOTE.**

|                                                      | £  |
|------------------------------------------------------|----|
| A merchant ship of 160 tons burthen might be had for |    |
| 50 <i>l.</i> sterling the month                      | 50 |
| Such a ship needs 80 men for war service, amounting  |    |
| per month to                                         | 80 |
| Food at 8 <i>d.</i> per day per man                  | 80 |

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[*Italian.*]

In ducats - 840

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Dec. 15.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**556. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*I have seen the news sent to your Serenity from Chirasso by the ambassador Donato, that the agent of England had got a leading minister of this court to write a letter to the duke in which he says that the help of the republic will be poison to the duke and your Serenity has no other object than to irritate the Spaniards so as to treat advantageously with the archduke. I have not hitherto been able to make myself absolutely certain who wrote the letter, especially as I am so far from the king and Winwood. I believe firmly that it comes from the latter, as I have heard so, and his ideas to the same purport have been reported to me by others, and I know that his reasoning leads in that direction and your Excellencies may recall that I have noted some of his conversations with me in my letters when he was certainly reserved. The ambassador of Savoy told me that Winwood was continually speaking to him in this way, charging the republic with being the original cause of all the present disturbances between the governor of Milan and the duke, and quite recently Sig. Giovanni Francesco Biondi told me that when he went to take leave of Winwood before leaving for Piedmont, the secretary spoke quite freely to him. When Biondi defended your Serenity the secretary declared his opinion more fully. So far as I could gather he considered your Excellencies had caused the present war in Piedmont in two ways, one by not embracing any of the proposals for a league which were made by His Majesty, as the English are persuaded that if the league had been made its prestige alone would have restrained the Spaniards from making any attempt upon any of the confederates in order not to bring the united force of all upon them, or if this had not sufficient to keep them from attacking the duke, that his defence, divided among so many powers, would have been an easy matter. The second way is that, since the dispute between the republic and the archduke about the Uscocchi, he believes that your Excellencies have endeavoured to upset the treaty made between His Highness and the governor of Milan, to relieve yourselves, sending money to the duke to get him to make war upon Milan. I wrote of this in my letters of the 1st July. He finally told Biondi that out of consideration for your Serenity the duke had not disarmed within the time prescribed by the treaty, and a few days ago he told the count of Scarnafis that a composition had been completely arranged between Cardinal Ludovico and M. de Bethune, but when the duke was about to sign it he would not do so unless the republic was secured also, and therefore it was broken off. I have frequently introduced offices to reassure him and have induced others to convince him of the good intentions of the republic in the matter of Savoy, but he clings obstinately to his first impressions. Argument makes little impression upon him, as he is known by those who have dealings with him as a man who has little of the knowledge necessary for the charge which he holds. I have not observed such opinions in the king, nor have I heard anything from the ambassadors of any words to that effect, but it may be that with his great prudence he hides it better. Moreover the king and his ministers know their obligations towards the duke of Savoy, and although they have hitherto avoided fulfilling them, yet their minds are uneasy; they see how much*



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*prestige they are losing in the eyes of the world, and perhaps they are trying to persuade themselves and others that the help which is given to the duke by France and the republic, who are the two other powers guaranteeing the treaty of Asti, is not given sincerely or usefully, and thus they are led to say that the money supplied by your Excellencies' is poison for His Highness, and the French soldiers are all enemies, as the king said recently to the Most Christian Ambassador, and so they persuade themselves that the duke will not so easily obtain men from France and money from Venice, and he would be better advised to come to terms with the Spaniards and end the war, abandoning or completing the treaty of Asti. Even if they began to fight again on the following day, the treaty would not be spoken of again, their part would be discharged and the king would be absolved from his engagement to help Savoy in virtue of his promise, which weighs more with him than his own interests.*

If I meet His Majesty or Winwood I will perform the office commanded by your Excellencies, but I will put it in the form I think best, so as not to prejudice the help to be given to the duke, because in their present reluctant state of mind to do anything for that prince they would be ready to seize upon any pretext for offence if they know that His Highness had communicated to your Excellencies what the English agent told him in confidence.

It is hardly necessary for me to recommend to your Excellencies the secrecy upon some of the above matters, as they are of such nature that they may cause harm the more they are reported.

London, the 15th December, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Dec. 16.  
Consiglio di X.  
Parti Comuni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

557. That leave be granted to Antonio Lando to visit and be visited by the ambassador of England upon one occasion only, that ambassador having proposed a visit by means of his secretary, upon the choice of Lando to be Proveditore General of the armies in the mainland and Istria.

Ayes 15.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati  
Venetian  
Archives.

558. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I had a conversation yesterday with one of the leading men of the government. He said: We do as much as possible to keep a bridle in the mouth of the Spaniards and if we had not hitherto kept garrisons in Cleves and Juliers they would have reduced those countries under their rule, and their troops would have gone in large numbers to Italy, to the prejudice of the duke of Savoy, and possibly to help the archduke Ferdinand against your Serenity. You can, therefore, understand how much we desire your preservation and to stand together against their ill-will. He added that they are inclined to believe that the proposals made by the Spaniards through the king of Great Britain for reciprocal restitution of places has not

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been advanced with the idea of employing their forces elsewhere, or after our troops have withdrawn, to obtain possession of the rest by some trick or pretext. We shall keep our eyes open, and the republic should look closely after her interests, as they will deceive you if they can. He said that when I first came, there was some discussion about improving the relations between our two republics, and that Carleton, the English ambassador, was also present. Various things were proposed, but all were open to some objection.

The Hague, the 17th December, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 17.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati,  
Venetian  
Archives.

**559.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The resident of the Margrave of Brandenburg returned here from Cleves yesterday evening, and to-day he saw prince Maurice and Barneveldt to tell them the opinion of the prince, the margrave's son, upon the proposals made by the English ambassador concerning the treaty of Zanten. I met him soon after his arrival and I gathered that the prince and his father desire the restitution of the places, since His Highness obtains nothing from that state at present; but on the other hand they are uneasy about the security, as they have heard that Mons. Klesl has advised the emperor to induce the Spaniards to accept the treaty, as after the States have withdrawn His Majesty can sequester the lands.

The matter requires grave consideration. The proposals have been sent to the provinces and a reply is not expected soon. Prince Maurice said they would hardly accept them. He added laughingly: The Spanish proposal seems to me like the red flag of Tamburlaine, which signified that there was no further salvation, because they protest they will hold the places if there is no settlement by the end of February. This is mere bombast; there are too many things to consider, to proceed in such haste. He thought the mission of Lesdiguières and the reconciliation of Nemours and Savoy might make them sing a different tune.

Sir Thomas Studler, the Englishman, will not accept 80 ducats a month but asks for 100, and no less, as your Serenity will see by the enclosed letters. As I was instructed to give him 80 at the most, I have not closed with him. He may serve as an example to others who might offer themselves to serve your Serenity. You will see by the enclosed paragraph what Pasini writes to me on the subject.

The Hague, the 17th December, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**560.** PARAGRAPH from PASINI'S LETTER from Brussels, the 13th December, 1616.

As soon as I received yours of the 3rd I went to see Studer. After a long conversation he would not budge from his determination not to serve for less than 100 ducats a month. This is due to Lord Roos, ambassador extraordinary of England in Spain, who

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promises to do a great deal for him; but in spite of this he says he would like to serve your Serenity. He told me that he would need a small sum of money for his journey.

[Italian.]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**561.** LETTERS of THOMAS STRUDER saying that he will not serve for less than 100 ducats and the title of Colonel.

From Brussels, the 6th December, 1616.

[Italian.]

Dec. 17.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**562.** SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador at Rome, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I told the pope yesterday, as instructed, of the modest manner in which the English ambassador with your Serenity conducts himself, far removed from scandal, while I assured him of the piety of the republic. The pope seemed satisfied and afterwards he said that the Archbishop de Dominis had reached the Hague in the short habit of a merchant. He had sent by an ambassador of Ragusa. He said much evil of His Holiness, but he would rather be blamed than praised by such a person. I agreed with this and said that he was honouring His Holiness in the best way he could with such a heart and such a foul mouth.

Rome, the 17th December, 1616.

[Italian.]

Dec. 18.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Constant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**563.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*Arthur Garnai, the English merchant who was concerned with the archenda, has recently been to see me. He said he wished to know what had been decided about this archenda, for which I had promised him satisfaction. I said that it was a matter of small moment; I had written to Zante for information and to Venice for orders, but had not had time for a reply, but if he would wait a while word would certainly come. He agreed to wait, although somewhat discontentedly, as he wishes the affair settled. I am awaiting your Serenity's reply to my letters of the 4th October, and I do not believe that you will allow this merchant to be defrauded under the word of a minister of yours, to add to his misfortunes, which are certainly great, as he has lost over 50,000 ducats at one blow, and he had a great quantity of sables which have been mostly ruined by the shipwreck of the galleon Naranzer, while he spent 30,000 crowns and more to obtain his release from prison.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 18th December, 1616.

[Italian; deciphered.]

Dec. 20.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**564.** OTTAVIO BON and VICENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Yesterday when we visited the English ambassador he told us that Épernon some days ago seemed anxious to join the malcontent princes. This ambassador has taken leave of Their Majesties to

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return to England. He proposes, he says, to return in two months to take up his charge, as he has left his house untouched and his children here. He says that he is going because he has obtained a very honourable appointment from his king, and has asked leave to go and take possession.<sup>o</sup> When he has done this and arranged his domestic affairs, he will return. However, the fact that the king has presented him with two coffers of very fine silver work makes it doubtful whether he will return. It seems that the queen and ministers are not a little suspicious at so sudden a departure, and they fancy he is going to urge his king to protect the princes, just as at the treaty of Loudun he interested himself for the safety of the faith.

We have heard from others, and he has not denied it, that the bishop of Luçon in the queen's name has spoken to him on this point, begging him not to induce his king to take any steps prejudicial to the authority of the Most Christian. The bishop represented that the king of England ought not to do to France what he would not like France to do to him, namely encourage his subjects to disobey him. He also said that His Majesty could not welcome his departure at this time, as the king of England during the troubles in this kingdom was accustomed to get his ministers to labour for its quiet, and the fact that His Majesty has not wished him to intervene, but even permits him to depart, gives rise to the belief that the English king has not the same good-will or that he believes the evils of this kingdom are incurable.

The ambassador replied that their sovereign would never experience any lack of good-will on the part of his king, but it was true that owing to broken faith he did not see how he could intervene advantageously. If he could do any good he would not fail to, but if they think they can put things straight without the help of others, His Majesty will be very pleased.

Paris, the 20th December, 1616

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

565. GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Resident at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Viceroy told me that for news from Constantinople he would no longer trust the Greeks and others, but would confine himself to two correspondents whom he had there. So far as I have been able to discover, one of these serves in the house of the English ambassador at the Porte, while the other belongs to the house of the French ambassador.

Naples, the 20th December, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

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<sup>o</sup> He was appointed Comptroller of the Household in succession to Lord Wotton, *Cal. State Papers Domestic*, 1611-18 page 407. Birch, *Court and Times of James I.*, i. p. 440.

1616.  
Dec. 22.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disposci,  
Inghilterra  
Venetian  
Archives.

**566. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

To my request to Winwood for an audience, he replied from Newmarket that he had shown my letters to the king, who begged me to have patience until his return to London, which will be in a few days; meanwhile Winwood himself would come to hear if I needed anything. He wrote precisely the same compliment to the ambassador of Savoy; so I have been constrained to stop and await the pleasure of His Majesty in order to fulfil the commands of your Serenity of the 18th November.

Yesterday evening Winwood came to London, and I intended to go to him to-day; but it so happened that while I was walking this morning with the count of Scarnafigi in his garden, the secretary arrived, and when he saw that I was about to withdraw, he begged me to stay as he had to speak to us both in the name of His Majesty about our audiences. His Majesty begged us to wait until his arrival, and if there was anything requiring haste, we should impart it to him and he would at once inform the king. The ambassador of Savoy said that he had asked for an audience, because of the desperate condition of the negotiations for a settlement in Italy, and he entered at length upon the needs of His Highness, the obligations of His Majesty and the nature of the help required. The secretary replied that he would inform the king, and when His Majesty reached London he would immediately procure an audience, but everything was true and they had news from Paris and Turin that the negotiations for peace were over.

*With regard to Venice, I said that I had definite news of the recent negotiations between the governor of Milan and the duke of Savoy by the interposition of Cardinal Lodovisio and M. de Bethune, and in my house I had all the documents, and from them it seemed to me that the chief difficulty was not on account of the republic, but upon the safety of the duke, as the Spaniards claimed that he should disarm, while they remained armed. It was true that the duke had wished to include the security of the Venetians in the treaty, not only out of gratitude, but for his own advantage, as the two powers are so united that the preservation of one depends in large measure upon the safety of the other.*

*The secretary replied that there were two points upon which they could not agree, namely, including the Venetians and disarming Milan. Both concerned the republic, because the Spaniards wished to remain armed solely on account of the Archduke Ferdinand and not against Savoy, and that was why negotiations were broken off, because of the republic, which hopes to gain an advantage against the archduke and secure herself from the Spanish forces by breaking the treaty of Asti, helping the duke of Savoy and compelling the Spaniards to defend themselves, as they are compromised in the treaty. Thus the few paltry crowns supplied by Venice have proved the ruin of Savoy, since the country is destroyed and in peril of utter ruin.*

*I replied that I marvelled that the upright actions of your Serenity, which are recognised as such by the unprejudiced, should be so interpreted at this Court, and by His Excellency in particular, whom I always considered most prudent and well affected towards your*

1616.

*Excellencies. That the help of your Serenity to the duke might now be counted in millions, not tens of crowns, and without it His Highness would have experienced difficulty in defending himself. That the object aimed at was not to break the treaty or maintain disorder in Italy, which has never been the way of the republic, but the simple fulfilment of her promises made in the treaty, to support a friendly prince in the hope of helping him to obtain reasonable terms, and for the sake of his preservation, which concerns this kingdom as well as many other powers.*

*Winwood replied: I am the republic's servant, but things are as I have stated, and that is not the way to help Savoy. If my king gave 40,000 crowns a month to the duke, which would be a great help, he would do so with the hope of good results, because he could not keep up such an expense, and a peace would not be made without including the republic, disarming the state of Milan and settling the differences with the archduke. So you see that all hangs upon that, and all the help given to Savoy is for the benefit of the republic. I could not refrain at this point from remarking that even if the help granted by His Majesty to the duke of Savoy or any others for the liberty of Italy should chance also to be of some assistance to the republic, I should not have thought it would have displeased His Majesty, as your Serenity had always had a good understanding with him from the time that he ascended the throne, and had rather reason to expect benefits from his past professions and promises. Softly, said the secretary, my king has promised nothing to the republic. It is true, I replied, that His Majesty has not promised anything definite, but he has frequently expressed his friendship for your Serenity. I remember I was present on the first occasion that the late Ambassador Barbarigo informed His Majesty of the affairs of the Uscocchi and the archduke. In addition to other things the king promised the continuance of his friendship, which must mean acts of friendship in case of need. At present I have no commissions to ask His Majesty for anything, but simply to represent the state of affairs in Italy, the needs of the duke of Savoy and the desire of your Excellencies that he may be helped by the king's powerful hand.*

*The Secretary replied: What the king promised to the Sig. Barbarigo was fulfilled by the friendly offices performed in various places in favour of the republic. We are bound to no more. It is true that His Majesty always entertains the same friendly feelings, but when Carleton, at the end of his embassy proposed a closer understanding, he was told that you did not recognise a closer friendship than what already existed. When at the coming of Don Pedro of Toledo I proposed to Sig. Barbarigo in the presence of the ambassador of Savoy an offensive league against the Spaniards as the only means of defence against them, I received no reply. Recently again Sir Henry Wotton has spoken about this at Venice and they would not hear a word of it, so that we do not know what more to do, and as the republic does not desire an understanding with us, it is no wonder that we do not wish for an understanding with her, and be sure that you will have no help from the United Princes or England unless you make promises on your side; and you must not found any hopes upon the duke of Savoy. He left it to be inferred that the king will not help that prince so that your Serenity may not benefit thereby.*

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*I said that the reply of your Serenity to the proposals made by His Majesty were based on such good reasons that His Majesty ought to be satisfied. If we said that there was no need for a firmer union and a closer understanding, it was simply because documents could not increase the esteem of your Serenity for the king, owing to past obligations and ancient friendship, and the desire to see the duke of Savoy helped was for the preservation of the liberty of Italy, and if your Serenity had received from God sufficient strength to defend His Highness alone, you would do so willingly, and you are doing what you can; but you are not strong enough and you have the war in Friuli, that is why you ask for help.*

Winwood turned to the ambassador of Savoy and to me and said: Gentlemen, this is not the way to fight the Spaniards; this is the way to lose and not to defend. If you do not make war on the state of Milan you will obtain no advantage. Either do what you can or make war in earnest on the Spaniards and then you will have real help from His Majesty and all the rest. But to give help in this purposeless way, is to throw everything away.

The ambassador of Savoy replied that it was the desire of his prince either to make a good peace or war, and as regards offensive war and a league he had always expressed his readiness to do what the king proposed. I know, replied the secretary, but these, indicating me, will not hear of it, and are the cause of all the trouble. But I assure you that the king either wishes to make a treaty between the Spaniards and Savoy or will render effective help.

He afterwards invited me to visit him on Saturday as he had something else to say. I do not think it is very necessary to enquire why this minister happened to speak so freely to me to-day. If I did not make satisfactory replies I beg you to pardon my stupidity, as I had to abandon instructions and trust to my own wit. I am sure that it will not be easy to remove these opinions from the king, the secretary and the others, as they are too deeply rooted, and because of the bad information which they receive from their ministers in Italy. In their own interests also these pretexts serve as an excuse for their coldness. Their profession of discontent, because your Serenity did not accept their proposals, must be left to you to remedy. If the feeling becomes more deeply rooted, it will be more difficult to remove. They give out that for this offensive war and general league, help would come from Italy, from the princes of Germany, from the States and England, to harass the Spaniards in unison if they did not agree to terms. They think this the right way of defence and all others vain, difficult and dangerous. The duke of Savoy and all the others are ready, but without the concurrence of your Serenity the matter remains without results, and so they lay all the blame upon us.

London, the 22nd December, 1616.

[Italian; the part in italics deciphered.]

Dec. 22.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**567.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Last week an extraordinary was sent off to Lord Roos in Spain. I understand that Winwood had a hand in this, and to-day he confessed as much to me. But I think that it has all passed

1616.

through the hands of Digby, the late ambassador in Spain, now the king's vice-chamberlain. So far as I can gather and am able to guess, Lord Roos has been recalled so that he may not have the opportunity in a long stay to negotiate about the marriage, because Digby is destined as ambassador for the marriage and will leave on the first day of the year.

It has been stated recently that the king wished to send three ambassadors to the Catholic king, and the persons were named, but up to the present Digby's appointment is confirmed. He is in great credit here, though altogether a Spaniard. I cannot learn what he is to do, but there will be plenty of difficulties.

The ordinary English ambassador is to leave Paris for England on the 18th inst. He will be made a member of the Council and receive some other honour,\* after which he will return to his residence.

The resident of Florence has gone to Newmarket to audience of the king and has not yet returned. All are surprised, as it is not usual for him to have business, but no one has hitherto been able to scent the reason.

They are trying hard to obtain money for His Majesty and they are pledging lands, rents and jewels even beyond the sea. Some are persuaded that this is to help the duke of Savoy, but I rather think that it is for the journey to Scotland, in which the king will want to use great liberality, as it is the first time he returns to that country.

A ship has been found for the munitions of Savoy and will leave within two weeks. The ambassador with his own money, has bought 30 more tons of lead for the duke.

Some disputes have taken place recently between some of the Court magnates, Viscount Villiers, the king's favourite being involved, but all has been settled.† After a year of the king's favour Villiers has reached a net income of 80,000 crowns, an immense amount of money and jewels and the highest offices and dignities of the kingdom.

I have this week received your Serenity's letters of the 25th November with the news of the final breaking off of the negotiations with the archduke. There are reports here that matters in that direction are turning out very badly and that your Serenity has no more than three or four thousand foot there.

London, the 22nd December, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 22.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**568.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

The events in Friuli have been important. Various conflicts have taken place on the banks of the Lisonzo. A considerable battle was fought on the 15th inst., which ended in our favour.

\* Comptroller of the Household.

† There have fallen some round words between the Lord Villiers and Lord Hay for the introduction of Lord Coke lately to the king at Newmarket. The Lord Hay was his conduct, but the office was excepted at by the other as a matter of some forwardness. John Castle to James Millar, Dec. 12, 1616, o.s. Birch: *Court and Times of James I.* i. page 447



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The duke of Savoy is well again. On the 20th inst. he was to go and meet M. Lesdiguières at Riccoli. Prince Vittorio is besieging Gattinara, which he hopes to take shortly and then proposes to enter Milan with a united force of 18,000 foot and 2,000 horse.

The like to the Imperial Court, the Hague, Rome, France, Spain, Constantinople, Naples, Florence, Padavin, Dolce, Turin, Milan, Mantua.

Ayes 141.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 23.  
Senato,  
Secreti.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**569.** To the AMBASSADOR with the DUKE OF SAVOY.

The Secretary Lionello writes that the king of Great Britain has decided to assist the duke of Savoy with some thousands of powder and tons of lead and matches for cannon. Although this is a small quantity at all events it is help and the beginning of a declaration, even if he should do it by means of a private merchant, so long as everything is known and understood. Moreover he told the count of Scarnafes that he had sent Francesco Biondi, of Liesena, to His Highness to acquaint him that His Majesty hopes to have the influence that the Spanish ambassador told him that he would have with the Catholic king for procuring a settlement, and if His Highness desires he will try, and if not he will try to obtain his admission to the union with the princes of Germany and the States, so that they may join to support his cause. He further informed him of the good offices performed by us in this matter by means of the said secretary, and that he had directed Lord Roos, his ambassador in Spain, to tell the king that if the treaty of Asti is not observed, His Majesty cannot abandon the duke, and will make war on the Catholic king.

The same Secretary writes that 120,000 ducats have been paid as wages on the royal galleys, and by Easter twenty will be armed.

In speaking to His Highness you will strengthen his feeling that it will be good to continue to make requests to that king, because as he has begun, it may be hoped that he will continue, and this arming of galleys is worth considering, because if it does nothing else it will excite suspicion and create a diversion.

Ayes 140.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 23.  
Senato,  
Secreti.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**570.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.

We are glad to hear from your letters of the 1st inst. that the king has begun to do something by providing munitions for the duke of Savoy. We desire that when you have occasion to speak to the ministers or to the king you will express satisfaction at this and say that this duke's need is the greater as the more extensive ambitions of the Spaniards disclose themselves, so that we feel sure

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that His Majesty will continue to afford still greater help, worthy of his greatness.

With regard to the king's hopes, based on the ambassador's remark about his great influence with Spain, you will say that every one ought to desire peace under proper conditions, but it is to be feared that this is a mere artifice of the Spaniards to render him lukewarm and to stay his worthy resolution to support Savoy and preserve the liberties of Italy, for the peace of which all the efforts which His Majesty thinks fit to make will be most praiseworthy, but at the same time urgent necessity demands due provision for the defence and maintenance of Savoy.

We hear with satisfaction of the payment of 120,000 ducats in wages upon the royal ships and that twenty will be armed by Easter. You will observe what is being done, and keep us informed. We receive the special information about the expense upon ships of war and what you add about the possibility of using those ships in another manner upon the occasion of a rupture with the Spaniards, and that this was the idea of Lord Dingwall. You will bear yourself towards him so as to keep him well disposed, losing no opportunity that occurs.

Ayes 188.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 28.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

571. To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

Some weeks ago we wrote to our ambassadors in France to represent to Their Majesties that we could not obtain the passage of troops from the Grisons unless we treated at the same time for a league, and to ask Their Majesties to favour the negotiations for a league. The ambassadors found Their Majesties disposed to grant us facilities for our defence and have accorded some rules under which they will agree to the conclusion of the league. We have informed our secretaries in the Grisons of this and they have begun to negotiate for a league. They have express instructions to abide by the rules laid down by France. This is simply for your instruction and you will not speak about it unless provoked, and you will always express our esteem for Their Majesties.

The like to Rome, Germany, Spain, Turin, the Hague.

Ayes 144.

Noes 1.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 24.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

572. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

In speaking of current affairs Barnevelt told me that in order to resist the vast ambitions of the Spaniards he thought there was no better remedy than union. In this France, England, which expressed a wish for it, the republic, the princes of Germany and

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others should join ; but time and opportunity were necessary to adjust this. I replied that the intention of your Serenity was to have a good understanding with these states. It will not be easy to obtain men here, as they are unwilling to weaken their forces, and Barnevelt told me last week that the Spaniards wish to lull them to sleep by their proposals of restitution in order to obtain possession themselves and send troops to Italy. They are not disposed to make a speedy reply to the exposition of Carleton, but will keep postponing.

The Hague, the 24th December, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 24.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**573.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I hear that the Elector of Brandenburg asked the king of Great Britain that he might have an ambassador. The king replied that he should like to know the reason for this request, and he would then do what he would think proper for his satisfaction.

The Hague, the 24th December, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 26.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**574.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Giovanni Francesco Biondi arrived here four days ago, sent from England by the count of Scarnafis, ambassador of His Highness. He is a pensioner of the king and by birth a subject of your Serenity. He has brought the promise of the sending of a ship with 1,000 barrels of powder, with rope and lead in proportion, which is the most that His Majesty can do. Nothing more can be hoped for. The king is not inclined to grant men and money and it is not possible for him to do so without greatly upsetting his own affairs, which are difficult and in great disorder.

Biondi, therefore, proposes the sending of some ships under private owners, urges the duke to ask for them and encourages him with very far-fetched hopes, which are uncertain and ill-founded and in my opinion nothing but empty phrases.

He has gone so far as to make various fantastic proposals to His Highness. I do not know whether they come out of his own head or whether it is something which he has heard the English ministers talking about. Not content with setting them forth orally he has put them in writing.

He strongly advises the duke to peace and asserts that this is the opinion of the king and the ministers. He considers it dangerous to think of anything else. He predicts a great revolt in France ; and represents that defensive war will prove the ruin of Piedmont and will involve the total fall of this house. Offensive war waged by a minor power is very uncertain. Biondi went even further, showing the expense of waging war with French forces, which are rapacious and unsatiable and harm their friends as much as their enemies. He said the union with our republic was not stable, as they had

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different ends in view; he knew your Serenity desired peace and the majority of the Senators objected to the help given here.

The duke heard him and had him closely questioned by the count of Verua. He is not at all satisfied and has told him to stop here, as he will be sent back to England with due thanks to His Majesty. As that king's faith and word has been violated in this matter it is uncertain whether the duke will repeat his requests. The duke said to me that he considered Biondi a *fiorentinello*, and laughed.

This is all that has happened except that Biondi has constantly asserted that nothing can be expected from the king of Great Britain and His Majesty is very far from being ready to involve himself in grave and troublesome affairs.

Turin, the 26th December, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 28.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Zante.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**575.** ALMORO BARBARO, Proveditore of Zante, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have received news up to November last of the troubles in which our bailo at Constantinople was involved by reason of a purchase of Pena made here by a merchant named Cariati, sold to English merchants and sent by them to Constantinople on the ships Terzona and Martinella. I have done my utmost to discover particulars, but have hitherto found nothing, owing to the death of Cariati, who was killed by his enemies, and owing to the death of one of the English merchants, named James de Bernardo, in the Morea. Last June a French *saetta* arrived here, the master named Julo. They sold 67 sacks of Pena, part of which Cariati bought. Silvan Marcock an English merchant and the said James de Bernardo his companion bought this part, laded it on the aforesaid ships and sent it to their correspondents. It might be worth about 400 thalers. This is all that I know.

Although I have given strict instructions to the officials that subjects may not buy stolen property least of all sell it into the Turkish states, yet it is difficult to prevent such purchases, this being an open port, and the merchants succeed in defrauding the customs officials in a thousand ways. However, I will use all vigilance to stop the traffic.

Zante, the 18th December, 1616, old style.

[*Italian.*]

Dec. 29.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**576.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

After doing what I could to obtain audience, I shall have to wait for His Majesty's return to London on Sunday. I have already spoken to the master of the ceremonies to remind him as soon as he arrives. Meanwhile despatches of the 2nd and 9th December have reached me from your Serenity, the first telling me what the Senate proposed to have read to the Ambassador Wotton, and new offices for His Majesty; the second with news from Italy and Wotton's exposition. When I see His Majesty I will endeavour to express to him the offices and desires of your Excellencies.

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I spoke of my intention to go last Saturday to see Winwood again, but after having found a good opportunity I thought it better not to go, as I did not want this to serve as an excuse for depriving me of audience and I know I should only obtain the usual replies from him, and I do not want, if possible, to cause any more friction between us, before I have spoken to His Majesty. I will try and discover whether the king entertains the same views as his secretary and I will try and show him the truth, more particularly that your Serenity did not cause the breaking of the treaty of Asti or the postponement of an accommodation and your agents have acted solely in the interests of His Highness.

The ambassador of Savoy is in the same position as myself. He asked for an audience and has been put off until His Majesty's return to London. In despair he went three days ago to see Winwood, who told him he must have a little patience, and it would do no good to importune. He gave him some hope that His Majesty thinks of supplying the duke with 10,000*l.* a month, equal to 40,000 crowns, which would be a great deal, but I cannot believe in it, because I do not know where he could get so much money. I am more inclined to believe that they will fritter away two or three months in negotiations, and then His Majesty will go to Scotland and so the summer will pass without any decision. I pray God I may be wrong, but everything points in that direction.

Yesterday I had two interviews, one with M. Caron, ambassador of the States, who told me that he had instructions to make strong recommendations to the king in favour of Savoy and for the general interests, and he will obtain an audience for this. I encouraged him warmly. In conversation he told me that his masters were much occupied with their own affairs and always had the forces of the enemy before their eyes, but they would do something for the duke if the king would also. However he did not see how His Majesty could do anything owing to the great scarcity of money here, without which it is impossible to render useful services to His Highness.

Yesterday morning, knowing that the earl of Arundel, a member of the Council and very intimate with His Majesty, was in London, I called upon him and spoke about the affairs of Italy. I took the liberty to tell him that your Serenity knowing his great prudence and his love for our province, was sure that his advice to the king would be advantageous to it, and it would benefit this kingdom also, in the reputation of His Majesty, who is deeply interested, and for reasons of state.

The earl showed that he understood matters rightly and that his advice would always be profitable to Italy and to the republic in particular, which he esteemed so highly, but he did not know what to say or to do as the king seems very well disposed, but shows great coldness when it comes to deeds. I am bound to add that the earl did not seem to like the claim for help of the king by virtue of his promise, possibly he thought it touched the king's dignity. On this head he told me that His Majesty ought to help the duke for the common service; that for the promise, the king was prudent and knew what was proper. I said that His Excellency ought not to mind the mention of the king's promise, as it was not private nor given to two or three persons, but public, given by the ambassador in the face of

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the world. That the duke recognised that His Majesty must be treated with respect and begged humbly for his help, and the republic also did not ask him in the usual confidential manner, but because the duke disarmed under the promise of France, England and Venice, and had afterwards been attacked, without his having infringed the articles, and so he asked for help and called to mind the promise. Your Serenity also promised with France and England in the treaty of Asti, and now the time has come and she is disposed to act, she may certainly, with all reason, invite France and England to do the same. The *earl* seemed convinced and admitted the obligation.

The agent of the king of Denmark follows the court continuously, and he is there now. On his return I will inform him of present affairs, and will see that his king is assured of the continued esteem of your Serenity; and how Italy is harassed unrighteously by the Spaniards. I will do the same with the agent of the Count Palatine. There are no other ministers here at present. I will also see Lord Dingwall again, thanking him for his kindness, assuring him of your esteem, and I will try and keep him well disposed to serve your Serenity.

London, the 29th December, 1616.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Dec. 29.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**577.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The *Earl of Arundel* told me yesterday with regard to the Spanish marriage, what I heard from other sources, that there are many difficulties to surmount, and it will not be concluded so soon as many believe. The Ambassador Caron said to me that negotiation was all the Spaniards wanted, in order to occupy the mind of the king of England, and alienate him from his old friends, especially Holland. This also concerns the requests made throughout the present year by the king to the States for the execution of the treaty of Santen and the restitution of the places; if the States consent, they will be deceived by the Spaniards, and if they will not, they will greatly offend His Majesty, who is very eager for it. A new reply is now expected from the United Provinces, as new proposals have been made to them by the Ambassador Carleton, to the great astonishment of the French ambassador, as I hear from elsewhere; because both crowns intervened in the treaty of Santen, and the king here might have declined, if the Spaniards had asked him, to make the demand of the Dutch if the Most Christian did not join him; yet now he has chosen to act alone. The French ambassador says that he will also receive the refusal alone, as he feels sure that the States will not consent.

The Spanish ambassador was entertained at dinner four days ago by the lords of the Council. He proposed to them the opening of Flanders to English cloth, which used to go to Zeeland. This also aims at splitting up the understanding, although there will be difficulties in the way. The merchants have their eyes on Nice or Villafranca, but the rumour of war frightens them. Perhaps the

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example of the merchants of S. Gallo restrains them from putting so much capital in the power of His Highness.

I have at last discovered the reason for the audience of the resident of Florence, which excited so much curiosity among the ministers of princes. He went to ask leave of the king in the Grand Duke's name, for the earl of Oxford, who is now at Florence, to sell a part of his property in this kingdom, which generally is forbidden by the laws.

M. Leon, ambassador of France with your Serenity complains much of the Spaniards in recent letters to the French ambassador here, because they do not wish the French to have any hand in the settlement of Italy, so that they may not acquire prestige, and informs him with satisfaction that their fighting is not proceeding very successfully.

I hear that the Catholic ambassador here recently told the king that the French have upset everything in Italy by their interposition. When this reached the French ambassador's ears, he grew angry and proposes to reply in strong terms.

They report from France not only the journey of Lesdiguières to Piedmont, but the prohibition of His Most Christian Majesty, issued at the instance of the Spanish ambassador, saying that they needed him too much in the kingdom; however, by the letters written by Lesdiguières to His Majesty, it is thought that he will not alter his purpose either for promises or threats.

The queen of England has sent a present to the king her brother in response to one received from him. It is very valuable and includes a bed with some brocaded hangings of great richness.

The archbishop of Spalatro has arrived here to change his religion. He is awaiting the king's arrival in London to kiss his hands. I hear that His Majesty will receive him gladly and assign some pension to him. Winwood told me lately that they had been expecting him for three years. He did not seem to think much of him. He said jestingly to me that we in Italy have more need of English soldiers than they here in England have of Italian learned men.

The Ambassador Edmondes has arrived here from France, and he will soon return to his residence.

London, the 29th December, 1616.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Dec. 31.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives

**578.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The Proveditore of Zante writes to me in letters of the 4th ult. that of the two agents of Arthur Garnai the English merchant, one is in the lazaretto as having recently come from places suspected of the plague, and the other, who sent the archenda, is dead. Cariati who sold the stuff has been assassinated and so it was most difficult to obtain information, but so far as he could gather the property was worth about 400 ducats, which ought to be recovered from Cariati's heirs.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 31st December, 1616.

[*Italian ; deciphered.*]

1616.

Dec. 31.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**579. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The English ambassador has asked the states for some reply to the proposal of his king upon the affairs of Cleves and Juliers. He received the enclosed answer. He told me that it was provisional and he had sent it to His Majesty. I am told that the resident of the margrave of Brandenburg has been to see the ambassador to inform him of Cardinal Klesl's advice to the emperor. He raised two points, that it would prejudice the general weal if the pretending princes were dispossessed; and they ought not to allow the Spaniards to employ larger forces in Italy. The English ambassador said nothing to me of this speech, but he told me that the States are keeping a close watch upon the present state of the affairs of the world and the interests of Italy. He seems satisfied with what they have decided to say to His Majesty up to the present, and expected the king would receive the decision soon.

He then asked me if I had heard that Sig. Ottavio Bon was to go to England. I said, no. He replied that M. de Langerach writes from Paris that Bon is leaving the matter of the Grisons with the Ambassador Gussoni and will proceed to England, and thence he will come here upon some friendly office. When I said that I knew nothing about it, he said that the journey would prove opportune, as although the Secretary Lionello has made himself very agreeable to His Majesty and all his officials, yet he is encompassed about by the ambassadors of Spain and the archduke, the secretary of Florence and some other unfriendly ministers, so that Bon's arrival will be most serviceable.

Several days ago the same ambassador asked me when the Ambassador Donato would be sent to England, adding that the Ambassador Contarini might go to England on his way home from Paris. I cannot think why he has spoken thus, or why the Ambassador Bon should go to his king, except as a sign of honour, while Donato cannot yet leave Savoy, owing to present events.

The Hague, the 31st December, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**580. REPLY of the STATES GENERAL to the proposals of the ENGLISH AMBASSADOR.**

After mature consideration, we thank His Majesty for his care for the general welfare. We desire that the countries of Juliers and Cleves shall remain under the legitimate governance of the princes Possessioners in conformity with the treaty of Zanten. But it is necessary to act cautiously owing to the proceedings of the Spaniards for example, the taking of Syburg, Soest and Lippstadt after the treaty and contrary to its provisions, wherefore we cannot take a final resolution in the absence of some of our colleagues; while the opinion of the Elector of Brandenburg, the prince his son and the Palatine of Neuburg must be taken, and this will require time as they are far away.

Dated at the Hague in the assembly of the States General of the Low Countries on the 24th December, 1616.

[*Italian.*]



1617.

1617.  
Jan. 1.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**581.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

With regard to what I wrote in my letters of 26 December about the negotiations of Giovanni Francesco Biondi, the agent of His Majesty resident here has given information concerning the decision about the powder and other things, but he says nothing about the embarking or when they may expect the use of them. He has given great hopes of interposing with the Catholic king for peace, magnifying the idea of the king's influence. He also said that if peace is not obtained they will join with the princes of Germany and the States for the preservation of Italy and of His Highness. At the same time he made vehement protests against attacking the state of Milan, pointing out that by this all hopes of peace would be shut out, and they ought to be careful not to irritate the Spaniards to the point of compelling them to continue the war, because His Highness is uncertain whether he can maintain it, and is therefore in grave danger of losing or of yielding to their will. The representations made by the agent were precisely similar to those of Biondi, with the same arguments. It is true that Biondi was not sent by the king, but by the count of Scarnafis, although he has laid stress upon his being a gentleman of His Majesty.

Other offers and hopes are not current here, except that they remember that if the duke sent money to England to enlist troops, he might be permitted to do so, but they do not wish to depart from what France is doing, namely, helping in a permissive way. With regard to the arming of galleys or other provisions the agent had nothing fresh to say when I asked him, except that they are keeping four or five royal ships armed for divers services and needs of the king. Scarnafis also writes to this effect, saying that His Majesty is most reluctant to incur any trouble, though he seems anxious for peace. The point upon which Biondi is now harping is that the duke shall write to the king, trusting to him and giving him authority to make peace. Biondi, trusting in the success of his arguments has even sketched the letter for His Highness to write and has given it to Verua and wanted to read it to me. It is rather a rignarole of fine phrases than the crux of the matter, which is the disarming of the Spaniards. It begs the king to make peace in whatever way he desires, and speedily, submitting everything to his will and judgment. It will certainly offend the duke.

Turin, the 1st January, 1616 [m.v.].

[Italian.]

1617.

Jan. 2.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Grisoni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**582.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary to the Swiss and Grisons, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The ambassador of the States resident at Heidelberg writes to an important personage here that his masters are much perplexed by the repeated requests of the king of Great Britain that they will remove their troops from the county of Juliers; they cannot understand what object or interest he has in view.

Zurich, the 2 January, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 5.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**583.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The king arrived in London on Saturday evening, and being at once reminded of my audience he gave me Sunday after dinner. Accordingly I gathered up all my instructions of the 18th and 25th November and the 2nd and 9th December, and began with the lighter matters so as to have my mind free for the serious ones later on, as at the end of an audience there is always a scarcity of time for small affairs. I congratulated him on his good health, and offered him very good wishes for Christmas and the New Year. I told him your Excellencies were glad to hear of the creation of the prince of Wales and had congratulated the prince by special letters. I then spoke of the arrival of Prince Francis Julius of Saxony, who had been welcomed for his own sake and because of His Majesty's letters, and I read your Serenity's letters in reply to His Majesty. I know His Majesty was pleased, though he made no reply, perhaps in order not to interrupt, but he thanked me by a gracious gesture and by removing his cap. I then told him that the reason why I was so anxious for an audience was the evil state of the affairs of Italy, and though he was doubtless well informed by his ministers, your Serenity wished to communicate the most important facts, as things are at present in such a condition that *the Spaniards, who have always tried to have it believed that peace will result, cannot now deny that all negotiations are broken off, and all hope of settlement abandoned. They aspire not only to subdue His Highness but to dominate all Italy, so as to turn their arms later against more distant parts. It would be too tedious to relate all that I said; I followed generally the deliberation which was read to Wotton, enlarging upon how Don Pedro had broken off negotiations by preventing Bethune from coming to Venice, and how the Spaniards, while operating against the duke of Savoy, contrive to lull to sleep his friends who might help him, or keep them occupied elsewhere, notably in the case of the archduke and Venice. Yet your Excellencies are doing what you can and you are sure that His Majesty will not abandon his own dignity and interests, but will declare himself strongly and back his words by deeds befitting his influence and greatness. The king listened patiently, and only interrupted once to praise Bethune, as a good man who had done his duty. A little later, while he kept walking up and down, he said he had foreseen the present course of events for two or three years, and had tried to contrive a remedy to raise a defence against the violence of the Spaniards, so that they would not dare to move or*

1617.

*if they did they would encounter adequate opposition. In his opinion this way was to form a league between the republic of Venice, the duke of Savoy, the princes of Germany, the States of Holland, and himself, for the common defence, which had often been proposed by his ambassadors at Venice. He had also spoken to the late ambassador ; he had always received courteous answers, but void of any purpose. He sighed and said : Your masters are very prudent, but rather too phlegmatic, that nevertheless, things being so, he had intervened to bring about the treaty of Asti with the aim of universal peace. In it he bound himself to help the duke of Savoy if the Spaniards would not fulfil their obligations, and he was ready to keep his word in helping the duke so far as he could, but it was necessary first to try all means which might lead to a new composition and to endeavour earnestly to discover the intentions of the king of Spain. To this end he sent the Secretary Winwood three days ago to visit the Spanish ambassador, who is sick, and speak of current affairs. He brought back the confirmation of what had been said before, that no prince in the world had more influence with the Catholic king than the king of England, and that being so, he was obliged to wait some days to hear from Spain what Lord Roos had done about Italy with his Catholic Majesty. If that king is not disposed towards peace, and the fulfilment of his obligations, he will willingly give what help he can to the duke of Savoy, from private obligations and for general interests, and he will inform me of what he decides to do by the Secretary Winwood.*

*With regard to the affairs of your Serenity he did not know what to say as things seemed to move slowly, one month war, and the next a truce.*

*I told His Majesty that the republic recognised his prudence and his zeal for the common weal when he spoke of a league. His ideas upon this were highly valued at Venice and you had returned thanks. You had not been able to make up your minds upon so grave a question, but this should not prevent him from looking after his own interests by defending the duke of Savoy. The artful speeches of the Spanish ambassador and the other Catholic ministers were only designed to lull princes by the song of peace, in order to win greater advantage in war. I said that the war between the republic and the Archduke Ferdinand went steadily on and there had never been any truce, though the enemy had reported some for their own ends, and they put about other false reports in order to cast doubts on the sincerity of your Serenity, but I was sure that His Majesty had never believed them, but had formed a just idea of the position of the republic ; nor would such false rumours produce any effect upon his prudent ministers. The republic felt assured of His Majesty's friendship.*

*His Majesty replied that your Serenity had reason for this confidence, and he would be a greater friend than any other prince in Christendom, as he had already shown. I said your Serenity preserved a grateful memory of his favours, and then spoke about Friuli. He said he knew that the siege of Gradisca had been raised to facilitate an accommodation ; he recognised the craft of the Spaniards and that they deceive the world. He then referred again to his waiting for letters from Spain, and of his willingness to help the duke as much as he could, laying much stress on the word could.*

1617.

*I made mention of the false rumours put about to cast discredit upon the republic, and of what you wrote to me on the 18th November about the news from Turin, because of what Winwood recently said to me before the ambassador of Savoy. I could not venture into further particulars without special instructions, as I might offend both the sovereign and the minister and have to justify myself, but I was glad to say what I could, more particularly in order to discover His Majesty's sentiments towards your Serenity. He seems as well disposed as ever, only displeased at the neglect of his plan for a general league among the powers to the exclusion of the Spanish monarchy.*

*On Monday, the following day, I went to see Winwood in his apartments at the Court. He said he was the devoted servant of your Serenity from his earliest years when he studied at Padua, and he always preserved the warmest esteem for the republic which he would evince at every opportunity. He would at present advise the king in the interests of Italy, and he expressed himself to me personally in a more friendly way than ever before. Possibly he felt he had gone too far on the previous occasion, and wished to salve the wound. I went to tell him what I had said to the king and that His Majesty had referred me to him in case the reply from Spain should not be good. He said that His Majesty had told him all about it. He assured me that if Lord Roos did not report that the king of Spain would give orders to the governor of Milan to make a settlement with the duke, His Majesty will not fail in his obligations. The only mischief was that they learned from Italy that the composition arranged by the Cardinal and Bethune was useless, because the duke would not accept unless the republic was included. This point did not concern the treaty of Asti, and so His Majesty was not bound to uphold it, but nevertheless he would do what was proper. I should see what was arranged between His Majesty and the count of Scarnafis, who was to have audience that day.*

*Seeing myself passed from one to the other, as had happened before, I had to make the best of matters, but I made him see that what he said about the composition was entirely false, since the principal point upon which they could not agree was disarming Milan, which Don Pedro would not hear of. But even if it had been as he said, the inclusion of the republic was not separate from the treaty of Asti, but was required by it, and the duke was bound to insist upon it in his own interests as well as out of gratitude, while His Majesty should desire it in the general interests. He confessed that this was true. Thus I am constantly confirmed in my belief that the greater part of the things which they say were simply introduced in order to excuse their coldness, as they cannot find any real arguments. The conditions cause me such mortification and distress that if your Excellencies would allow, I would rather be in any part of the world than here.*

London, the 5th January, 1616. [M.V.]

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Jan. 5.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**583A.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The last days of last week the ambassador of Savoy had letters from the duke with new instructions to see His Majesty and urge him to the observance of his promise. His Highness confines himself

1617.

to asking for some amount of money, as he does not require men. I have seen the letter and some particulars written by Crotti, the duke's first secretary. Both highly praise the republic, the duke saying that the Venetians are supplying great sums of money, while Crotti adds that your Excellencies are playing the Orlando. The letters express great hopes not only of defence against the Spaniards, but of attacking Milan, if His Majesty does not fail in his obligations or if he will at least say sincerely that he will not act.

With these commissions and other older ones the ambassador had audience a day after me. The ambassador pressed His Majesty hard, touched on his obligation and his reputation. To the duke's request for help the king replied that he did not know what help he could give, because he had no money, but he would give him men and ships. The ambassador said that His Majesty should have thought of this at the time that he promised help in the treaty of Asti. Three or four times after he had said that the duke should hold fast by that treaty and he would help him. The king replied that it was true, but he had acted in the hope of peace and that there would not be fresh ruptures. The king remarked that he understood that Venice was doing well and he was glad of it. The republic is doing miracles, replied the ambassador, but that is not sufficient, as she has so many other occasions for spending that she must soon pause, and besides, His Majesty ought not to neglect his obligations because others are fulfilling theirs; but it should serve as an example to stimulate him. The king replied that some princes are rich in money like the king of Spain, some in jewels, some in ships and men. He had no money and could not possibly do what Venice is doing. The ambassador replied: Your Majesty is a powerful monarch in every respect, and recognised as such, and this would raise you higher. But the king interrupted, remarking: Do not say so, for with all my forces and my three kingdoms together I could not do what the republic is doing; but I will give the duke what help I can; and he then spoke of the news expected from Lord Roos from Spain, in the same way as he had referred to me about it. He confessed his obligation to help the duke, and when the ambassador added that the states of Holland were ready to do something if he set the example, His Majesty replied that it was true and they were quite right. The Palatine also wrote begging him to help the duke. His Majesty also spoke to him about a league, regretting that it had not been made, as there would not then have been so much trouble. He said he thought that your Excellencies would now accept his advice and enter the league, especially as he understood that your ambassador in Spain had received very bad replies upon his affairs. The ambassador said that if His Majesty would give him leave he would show him how to induce the Venetians to accept the league, namely, by showing himself an exact and punctual observer of his promises, ready to help Savoy, and zealous for the common service, but if he continued his present way, the prudence of the Senate would never allow them to enter this bond with him. The king replied that this was a strange argument, and with answer and reply they finally came to this, that the ambassador asked the king, if he had no ready money, to make some assignment upon his revenues and he would find merchants to make the payment in advance. The king promised to carefully consider everything which he could do for His Highness and would send for the ambassador in ten

1617.

*or twelve days and tell him the decision. It may be that they expect the news from Spain within this time, and this may easily be of such nature as to give them an excuse for further postponement.*

I have been to see the agent of the king of Denmark, who is an English cavalier of the court. I informed him of the present state of affairs in Italy, and assured him of the esteem of your Serenity for his master, and how the advance of the Spaniards in that province prejudiced all free princes. He promised to send to His Majesty by the first ship, and said he knew he would devote great attention to a matter so important, as he was naturally inclined to look to his own preservation.

I would have performed the same office with the agent of the Elector Palatine, but he was nearly dead. However, if he pulls through, I will fulfil my commands.

The Spanish ambassador also has been severely ill and very near to death, and even now he is not quite out of danger.

The queen is somewhat ailing, especially in one leg, which has given her great pain for some years, and she has trouble in obtaining relief.

With the arrival of the Ambassador Edmondes from France they have conceived the idea at Court of dissuading His Majesty from going to Scotland, as they think that the state of affairs in Italy and France demands his presence in England and not in a distant kingdom. They speak freely of this, but with little effect hitherto, as His Majesty has decided to start on the 25th March, earlier than originally arranged. Nevertheless Edmondes persists in saying that before then events will have occurred in France, which will compel His Majesty to change his mind. He thinks that war will soon break out between the princes and His Most Christian Majesty, but many others are not so confident, not because of any lack of disposition, but because the party of the princes seems very weak, being without a chief, without money, disunited and not trusting each other; but if the house of Guise should join them, it would make a considerable difference.

The king has sent jewels secretly over sea for 400,000 crowns to obtain money for the journey to Scotland, and the ambassador of Savoy cherishes some hope that if the journey is given up he may obtain some of this money to help the duke.

London, the 5th January, 1616. [M.V.]

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Jan. 5.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**584.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Secretary Winwood told me on Monday that he had to perform an office with me in the name of His Majesty for the archbishop of Spalatro, who having left Italy to come to serve the king, had been very ill-treated in the Grisons by two ministers of the republic, as they induced his little nephew and a boy, whom he was taking to England, to abandon him; so that he had to come on here with a single English servant. When he reached the Hague he had been worse treated by another secretary of your Serenity, which had greatly displeased His Majesty. He

1617.

had come because he wished this to be known at Venice that you might be aware of the little consideration shown to the archbishop. I replied that I had no information about the archbishop, of his coming here or what happened to him on the way, but I seemed to have heard that when he was passing the Grisons with a nephew, who was related to one of your Serenity's secretaries there, the nephew was exhorted by him to return home, as he did not think the journey would be good for him, especially at that season. I knew that the secretaries in the Grisons and at the Hague were so prudent that they would not have overstepped the limits of discretion with the archbishop, and I did not believe that they had any commission from the republic, but if anything had been said by the ministers of the republic to the archbishop which he did not like I begged His Majesty to believe that he was not concerned, as the archbishop was not considered as his servant at the time, but as a subject of the republic. There would have been no cause for complaint, even if he had been forcibly prevented from leaving his house, and His Excellency knew what is done in England when they find that anyone wishes to leave the island with such notions as those with which the archbishop left Italy. Your Serenity had the greatest respect for all who depended on the king of Great Britain, but in this case I did not think that anything had been done to prejudice this. Winwood could say nothing in reply, except to ask me to write about it to Venice. I believe that the archbishop has contrived this to avenge himself on the secretaries, so that your Excellencies may form a bad idea of them, because they have, possibly with some zeal, prevented this bad man from leading those poor children with him over the precipice.

He was at church with His Majesty the other day, which is taken as an absolute declaration of Protestantism. He is also publishing some of his manifestos, which I have not been able to see. I shall studiously avoid meeting or speaking with him, and I beg for instructions what to do if I am spoken to about him.

London, the 5th January, 1616. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 6.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**585.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.

We enclose a copy of the office performed by Biondi with the duke of Savoy, upon which we have received letters from our Ambassador Donato. You will use this for information and do what you can to discover the truth about the orders with which he was sent, and you will also see the office performed by His Majesty's agent. With regard to the king's journey to Scotland, you will guide yourself by the example of other ministers, whether you go or stay, and by what you know will best please His Majesty. If you desire to go you may be assured that we will see to the matter of expense.

Ayes 118.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

1617.  
Jan. 6.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**586.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

Our last letters from Turin are of the 1st inst. Ice and snow are impeding operations. The Spaniards have fortified themselves in Gattinara and have strongly garrisoned Torre di Crevacuor. M. Lesdiguières has stopped at Chaumont. He has excused himself to the duke on account of the season and the troubled state of France.

The duke replied, pointing out the importance of the prosperity of Savoy to Dauphiné.

There is nothing to report from Friuli.

The like to the Imperial Court, the Hague, Rome, Spain, France, Constantinople, Milan, Naples, Florence, Zurich, Coire.

Ayes 152.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 7.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**587.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The English ambassador, who came to see me recently, said that there was an English knight, Gatz,\* a man of courage and of long experience in these countries, who was much employed by his king in Ireland. He has seen a good deal, is over fifty, and he thought he would bring your Serenity a regiment of infantry from England. For his lieutenant he would take a member of the house of Herbert, who is staying at Usden, captain of a company of the States. Gatz is in the same town. For sergeant major he would take a knight now in England, who knows the trade of war. If I liked he would write to Gatz and Herbert to learn their terms. He added that he felt sure that they would demand the same conditions as Count John Ernest, with respect to the gift for the levies, the ships and the monthly payment of the men. As he entered into such details I judged that he knew a good deal about the intentions of these individuals, and I have, therefore, thought fit to write earlier to your Serenity.

I must not forget to mention the offer of another young Englishman, of a good family. His father is Thomas Heale, living at Fliet in Devonshire. He told me that he trades every year at Venice for the sum of over 100,000*l.* sterling. He is willing to levy 300 foot, whom he offers to bring, and for these, the hire of ships, and provisions, he wishes half the money to be paid to his father when they have left the shores of England. He has no experience of war, but he seems to have courage and ambition to succeed. He told me that he would bring all experienced officers, veterans in the campaigns of this country. He first offered to bring an entire regiment, if he might have the title of Colonel, but I could not think of this with a youth of about twenty-five. If, however, your Serenity desires him to levy a regiment of 1,000 to 1,200 foot, I beg you to let me know, as I do not doubt but he would consent, owing to his ambition for the title.

The Hague, the 17th January, 1616.

[*Italian.*]

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\* Sir Thomas Gates.



1617.  
Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**588. OFFER of SAMUEL HEALE, English Gentleman.**

To raise in England and take to Venice 300 good and tried soldiers, if I may have the command of them.

If the republic desires me to levy one or two companies more, I will do so if I may have the title of lieutenant-colonel with the pay belonging thereto. All this for 2,100 ducats of lire 6 soldi 4 for each 300 foot.

Payment for levy, transport, ships and provisions at 2 ducats a head, half to be paid in England and half to my father as soon as the vessels have left England.

Pay shall begin on the day the soldiers muster in England, it being understood that they shall be embarked at once. If a soldier die thereafter, payment shall be made until the second muster, which will be held after landing.

I undertake to serve for at least a year after the first muster.

If the republic then decides to dismiss the company, each man shall have a month's pay to return home.

I bind myself to obey all the public representatives, and I promise to serve faithfully.

SAMUEL HEALES.

Dated at the Hague on the 7th January, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 10.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**588A. OTTAVIO BON and VICENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

They think of sending an extraordinary ambassador to Spain, and as they fear that the departure of the ordinary ambassador of England, although it is said he will return, is owing to dissatisfaction; they also think of sending a mission to that king, under the pretext of returning thanks for the congratulations brought by Lord Hay, but it would also be to inform the king of the state of the realm and the reasons for the imprisonment of Condé, to keep him well disposed towards the crown and prevent him from siding with the malcontent princes.

The archbishop of Spalatro, on his way to England, issued a manifesto in Holland, in which he not only denies the pope but expresses other depraved sentiments, much to the delight of the heretics here, who have had it translated into French.

Paris, the 10th January, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 13.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**589. To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.**

We have received this morning letters from Turin of the 3rd to the 10th inst. M. Lesdiguières has arrived at Turin, and has been greatly honoured by the duke's orders. The duke proposes to go there from Vercelli to confer with him. His Highness's army is about Masserano, waiting to strike some blow. The duke proposed to raid the Novarese, but the Spaniards got wind of it and prevented him. They are acting solely on the defensive.

1617.

The like to the Imperial Court, the Hague, Rome, Spain, France, Constantinople, Naples, Florence, Mantua, Padavin, Dolce.

Ayes 162.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 13.

Senato,  
Secreta.

Dispaoci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**590.** OTTAVIO BON and VICENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Baron de la Tour has not yet set out for England, as they wish first to hear what representations have been made to the king there by his ambassador Edmondes, who left here recently.

Paris, the 18th January, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 13.

Collegio,  
Secreta.

Esposizioni,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**591.** The PAPAL NUNCIO came into the CABINET and said:

He asked for an order to prohibit certain books, to the number of six or seven. With regard to that of the archbishop of Spalato, it has already been dealt with, and if anything further happens he will have recourse to His Serenity. He had not seen the others, but they had been censured in Rome and were printed in Germany, so that it was certain to be all right.

He added that the archbishop of Spalato had arrived in England and had written a letter stating that all were flocking to him as to an oracle. This was an index of his great vanity.

Sig. Giacomo Cornaro replied that what was fitting had been done with regard to the archbishop's manifesto. If more was necessary, it should be done. With regard to the other books named it was not known whether their contents were matter for consideration, but nothing could be published without licence, and this applied to the whole state.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 14.

Senato,  
Secreta.

Dispaoci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**592.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*Last week I went with the ambassadors of France and Flanders to the house of the English ambassador to try and concert some action upon the matter of the carazo. We finally agreed that each of us should go separately to the Caimecan to make the necessary representations, saying that news of the carazo had reached our princes, who were greatly displeased, and they had directed us to offer a vigorous opposition. We thought it best not to speak upon the point after so long a silence without some previous consultation, and we wished to leave room for possible instructions to threaten to leave. We doubted if we should succeed with the Caimecan, and the French ambassador and I proposed, after we had tried every other means, to give him 1,000 sequins. The English ambassador opposed this with arguments rather specious than practical. For all we said he would not give way, and we felt sure that he would not share the expense. The ambassador*

1617.

*of Flanders seemed inclined to our way, but I think the example of England may make him difficult. However, it was finally settled that the ambassador of France should see the Pasha first, England second, Flanders third, and I last. The danger is that if our merchants die without heirs their property goes to the treasury. All the ambassadors are aware of this, but they have not been able to decide anything before orders come from their princes, for which the English ambassador in particular has sent his secretary to the Court.*

*Accordingly the French ambassador went to the Caimecan and stayed so short a time that many thought he had not had audience. However, he told me he had spoken fully to the Pasha. The ambassador of England, who is naturally very free, expressed doubts owing to the shortness of the interview, and I must confess that I am of the same mind.*

*The English ambassador started on the following day to make his representations. But when he was crossing the canal he saw the boat with wine for his house being taken from Galata to Constantinople, to stop him and compel him to give something in order to have leave to unload it. This made the ambassador so angry that he returned home and sent to tell me that he would not go to audience, because he could not refrain from loud complaints to the Pasha about this matter and it would not have been dignified to speak of the other business afterwards. He would go another time, but he wished to free himself from this intrigue. The wine of the other ambassadors has been treated in the same way.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 14th January, 1616. [M.V.]

[Italian; deciphered.]

Jan. 14.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Firenze.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**593.** GIOVANNI FRANCESCO TRIVISAN, Venetian Resident in Florence, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Sig. Francesco dal Monte has been to tell me of his departure for Rome. He said he had instructions from His Highness to make strong representations to the pope about the present peril of Italy and the evil proceedings of the Spaniards in this province. He would tell His Holiness that Italy is now become the receptacle of heretics and of all the sects, since your Serenity calls upon all your friends and confederates, bringing in Grisons, English and Dutch for your defence; Savoy employs Bernese and French of Languedoc and Dauphiné, for the most part Lutherans, and the Spaniards have Swiss, Germans and Burgundians, so that Italy is infested with such people and with various religions, to the prejudice of the Apostolic See.

Florence, the 14th January, 1616. [M.V.]

[Italian.]

Jan. 14.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**594.** CRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Your Excellencies will have heard what the Spanish ambassador at Paris said with respect to the English ambassador's remark upon the emperor's offer for the carrying out of the treaty of Zanten. They consider it here either a sign of ambition or else as

1617.

being expressly intended to acquaint the king and queen that His Catholic Majesty does not wish this affair to pass into the control of England, but of France. The Ambassador Carleton told me that envy and ambition are struggling in the breast of the ambassador, because the negotiations were not entrusted to him, and possibly the idea came from the Council of Spain for affairs of state. The matter is proceeding silently; and nothing more will be done, so the Resident of Bradenburg tells me, before replies arrive from the Elector, the Palatine and the duke of Neuburg.

The Hague, the 14th January, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 14.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**595.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The English ambassador has obtained an interview for me with Colonel Gates. On hearing from the ambassador he came from Usden to make his offer and state his terms, which I enclose. The ambassador assures me that he has had very wide experience, and he suggested that you should ask for further information from the Ambassador Wotton.

The Hague, the 14th January, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**596.** SIR THOMAS GATES, subject to the permission of his superiors, offers to serve Venice with 1,500 foot to be enlisted in England, all subjects of His Majesty.

The levies to be upon the same conditions as those of Count John Ernest, namely 14 florins a head after the levy, and 150 ducats of lire 6 soldi 4 for the pay of the soldiers for each 150 per month, beginning from the muster made at embarking. They shall not be levied before the ships are ready with all provisions.

For the provision of ships, 6,000 Dutch florins for every 200, making 45,000 florins, 25,000 to be paid at London and 20,000 on arriving at Venice.

Asks for a loan to arm the men well, to be deducted from the payment.

He will obey the public representatives and serve by sea or land as commanded.

Leaves his own salary and that of the other chief officers to your Serenity.

Asks the republic to direct their representations to assist him where necessary.

At the Hague, the 13th January, 1617.

This knight is 54 years of age. He has borne arms for 38 years in the service of the States, and has been captain for 27 years. He was employed by the king of Great Britain as Colonel in Ireland, 17 years ago. He travelled with Sir Francis Drake to the taking of Cartagena and San Domenico, with the command of a company, and had the same charge in the expeditions of Portugal and Rouen in France. He accompanied the Earl of Essex on his expedition to

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the Terceira Islands and Cadiz in Spain, and his company has always been kept for him with the States, and he has it now at Huseden.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 14.  
Consiglio di X.  
Lettere.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**597. To the RECTORS of VERONA.**

The ambassador of Great Britain has presented us with a memorial in favour of some merchants named Orelli. If these merchants come to you, or others in their name, to ask for the recovery of their goods, you will do what you know to be opportune in the present state of affairs in order to retain the goodwill of that ambassador to our republic.

[*Italian.*]

**598. MEMORIAL of the AMBASSADOR WOTTON.**

On 9th September last a certain robbery of some cartloads of goods took place near Verna, the assassins carrying off some bales of silk and other things. Among these was a bale of very fine silk of Vicenza, sent by the heirs of Gio. Battista Pestalozzi and Cristoforo Giambello, on account of Felice Orelli and Co. of Zurich. The subjects of Vicenza and Verona found some slight indications that this affair might have been committed by persons living in those places, and therefore asked the Podesta of Verona that the case might be referred to the Council of Ten, so that they might give full authority to the Rectors to proceed against the guilty.

The Orelli beg that this may be done and that the Rectors be instructed to use every diligence to punish the delinquents and restore the goods or the value thereof.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disposoi,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**599. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

No decision has as yet been made with regard to the numerous proposals of Lesdiguières. They have decided to answer the French ambassador, thanking him for the friendliness of His Most Christian Majesty, and saying that your Serenity and the king of England must be informed of it.

Turin, the 17th January, 1616. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 19.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**600. To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.**

Our troops have lately erected a fort at Lucinis in Friuli. Some cuirassiers protected the work, who were dismissed to quarters at its completion. One company went to the villa at Cruglio, where they were attacked and defeated by the archducal forces. In Istria, however, our troops have captured a convoy of flour.

Ayes 150.  
Noes 0.  
Neutral 1.

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The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Turin, Constantinople, Milan, Naples, Florence, Zurich, the Hague, Padavin.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 19.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**601.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and Senate.

This week I have four letters from your Serenity, those of the 16th, 22nd and 23rd December, with information about the arch-duke and Savoy and the negotiations in France on the Grisons. I can add but little to what I have written in my past despatches.

With regard to the other letter of the 23rd, I will speak to the ministers or the king, expressing your pleasure that His Majesty has begun to help Savoy, and will try to induce him to do more. I spoke to the king a fortnight ago, and also to Winwood as you will have seen from my past letters. The ten or twelve days given the count of Scarnafigi have already passed, but he has not been allowed to do any business, because this is the most festive time at the Court, and on Tuesday His Majesty leaves London for Theobalds. He will return on Saturday, and possibly then he may give audience to the count, who continues to importune him.

I have taken the opportunity of the new year to speak to *many of the leading councillors, and I found that almost all feel for the duke and think that His Majesty is bound to do something, or suffer in his interests and reputation, but when the conversation turns upon giving help or money all shrug their shoulders, and are silent, as it is notorious that His Majesty is very short of it. Unlike other princes he does not depend upon his own treasury, but upon the great wealth of his people, and he spends with extraordinary liberality all the money that comes into his hands. The archbishop of Canterbury, with whom I had a long conversation the other day, told me many things on this head with which I need not trouble your Excellencies. In substance he said that he personally is not greatly inclined to the Spaniards, and so far as he can the duke of Savoy shall receive real help, the marriage with Spain shall not be made, and the Spaniards shall never set their feet on this island.*

For the rest the king and the greater part of the English are glad to hear of the progress of His Highness against the governor of Milan, and they hope even better, from the valour of that great prince. The republic has greatly increased her glory by helping him, as all recognize that without the money of your Excellencies he could not have done what he has. Many ask if your Excellencies will gather the fruit of your toil now the opportunity offers itself.

The payment of 120,000 ducats to the employés on the royal ships was quite true, and so was the proposal to arm a certain number. Winwood said so himself, and it was discussed in the Council, but the difficulty lies in the large amount of His Majesty's indebtedness and the cost of provisioning the ships, for which the money paid does not nearly suffice. As much more is necessary to arm a large number, and so they postpone doing anything for the present, and I believe that His Majesty's journey to Scotland will make this plan fall through.

1617.

In letters of the 16th you direct me to note offers made by those who are instructed to bring men from England to your service. Among the persons best qualified who have spoken to me, there are Lord Willoughby (*Vilibi*), an Englishman, who was general in Denmark, and would be well fitted; Gray, a Scotch knight; a Captain York (*Jorch*), and others of less condition; others have approached me secretly, who will not declare themselves, unless they have some hope of success; I am sure that if your Serenity orders a levy you will be able to obtain one in a short time, as the best men of these kingdoms offer themselves as generals, colonels, captains and officers, and here as elsewhere, there is an extraordinary desire to serve the republic with the sword. I have not gone so far as to treat with any of the above persons about means and the cost of obtaining their levies, but from what I gather in casual conversation I think that since the report of the levy of the Dutch reached here every one would offer, even if the conditions are not known, and would agree to serve on the same terms. However, I will try and find out what they think and will send word next week.

The other day when I went to see Lord Dingwall and thank him, as he cannot yet leave his house, owing to his severe illness, I tried to discover upon what conditions he would make the levies which he offered to your Serenity, but I could get nothing from him except that he had left a note of all the expenses and other particulars in the hands of Sig. Agustino da Mula, and he would not propose anything, but treat when the occasion presented itself. If your Excellencies would send me a copy of this note supposing that it still exists, it might serve me as a basis for future negotiations.

London, the 19th January, 1616. [M.V.]

[Italian.]

Jan. 19.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

602. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Three days ago the king had letters from France with news of the mission of the Baron de la Tour as extraordinary ambassador. He should arrive very soon, ostensibly to return thanks for the congratulations offered by Lord Hay, but really to justify the action of the Queen Mother after the late treaty with the princes, remove any evil impression made upon His Majesty thereby and divert him from lending any countenance to those who incline to revive the troubles of France.

Meanwhile *Edmondes*, the English ambassador, who has returned from Paris, is trying to preoccupy the king's mind in favour of the princes, with whom *Edmondes* has always sided, being in particular very friendly with *Bouillon*. He told me yesterday morning that he has great hope of convincing His Majesty of the importance to his state and reputation of assisting the princes, so that they may live in safety and have their proper share in the government, without most things being in the hands of dependents of Spain. *Edmondes* since his arrival has shown himself a man of sound opinions, and being a member of the Council he has spoken a great deal upon this matter and upon Italy, and on both accounts he greatly blames the king's journey

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to Scotland, and is almost alone in the opinion that His Majesty will be compelled to give it up.\*

So far as they have yet arranged this journey is definitely settled to begin on the 25th March, and all necessary orders have been issued to make ready the roads, which are very rough in some places at this season. They are trying to collect money. Besides the jewels which were sent over sea, they propose to ask for money from the city of London. They are asking for loans from many rich individuals of the country, and a merchant is dealing with the king for 150,000 trees at 4 crowns each; they want much more, but I do not know if they will settle.

A council of six persons will be set up for the governance of England, comprising the queen, the prince, the archbishop of Canterbury, the lord Chancellor, the lord Treasurer and the earl of Worcester (*Uster*). The ambassadors will remain here, and for more serious matters they will send couriers daily, but it must needs be very difficult and prejudicial to all negotiations to communicate by letter with the king 300 miles away.

The ambassador of Savoy has requested the ambassador of the States to write to his masters and beg them to give the Spaniards grounds for uneasiness in Flanders, as they easily may without prejudice, so as to keep them employed in more than one place, but especially that they may not be free to send to Italy 4,000 Walloons and 1,000 horse as they propose. M. Caron approved of the idea and promised to write in its favour. The ambassador of Savoy also asked me to inform our resident at the Hague of this, so that he might tell the States how advantageous such a course would prove to their interests. I am writing to Surian to-day, leaving it to him to do what he thinks best.

The powder and other munitions granted by His Majesty to Savoy are laden and will leave the river to-morrow. The ambassador wishes them to await off the Downs the Dutch fleet, which is coming to the service of your Serenity, so that they may go more safely. Many here complain on seeing the winds so long contrary, preventing the Dutch ships from starting, remarking on the sufferings of the soldiers and the anxiety of your Serenity in waiting; but this is unusual and need not be anticipated on future occasions.

Last Saturday the Council dissolved the new company of cloth merchants of England, who had given rise to disputes with the States by wishing to dye the cloth exported hence themselves. The patents have been restored to the old company, and so it is hoped that this important difficulty, which arose recently, will be solved. It is also thought that the king will gain some money for his journey from the business from the old merchants reinstated.† Viscount Villiers, His Majesty's favourite has received the title of earl of Buckingham this week.‡

London, the 19th January, 1616. [M.v.]

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

\* The decipher reads *admetterlo*, but the text contains b 33-g 52-n 22-z 6-g 42, i.e. *ri-me-te-r-la*.

† This relates to the failure of Cockaine's company, established for the purpose of exporting dyed cloths from England. See Gardiner, *History of England*, ii. pp. 385-390. The proclamation restoring the old company to its former privileges is dated Aug. 12, 1617. *Cal. State Papers, Domestic*, 1611-8, p. 481, but from this statement by Lionello, they seem to have obtained them a good deal earlier.

‡ Villiers was created earl on Jan. 15, 1617. *Cal. State Papers, Domestic*. 1611-8. p. 428.



1617.  
Jan. 19.  
Consiglio di X.  
Parti  
Secrete.  
Venetian  
Archives.

603. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the COUNCIL OF TEN.

Some days ago I had a suspicion that the count of Scarnafigi, ambassador of His Highness the duke of Savoy, was treating of important affairs with the king and the Secretary Winwood. The ordinary means which I have adopted upon other occasions did not avail to help me to discover anything about these affairs which were passing at the court, and being impelled by curiosity and the service of your Serenity I went last Sunday to call on this ambassador. After we had beaten about the bush for a long time, I got so far that he could not deny that weighty matters were in negotiation, and finally, with some reluctance, he consented to tell me about it. But first he asked me to promise to keep it locked in my own breast, and not even write about it to Venice, so that nothing might be disclosed until all was ready for execution. I made a thousand protestations that if your Serenity should learn anything about it from me the king of Great Britain and the duke of Savoy would have good cause of complaint against the republic, owing to the damage that they would receive thereby, and by the spoiling of an excellent design which seemed to present hardly any difficulties and would be of notable service to the province of Italy and a severe blow to the unmeasured ambition of Spain. I assured him that whatever he communicated to me would be as if it had not been spoken and I even promised not to inform even your Serenity about it for the time being. However, this promise cannot prejudice my principal duty of serving faithfully and of bringing to the public notice everything that comes to my knowledge. Accordingly I think it best to send an account to your Excellencies, leaving it to your own great prudence to keep the discussion of the matter secret among yourselves until its perfect maturity, which will be in a few days, and if it be communicated to the Senate I beg that it be done in the most severe and secret manner, as is customary with that august body when dealing with highly important matters which concern the public interests in the highest degree.

Sir Walter Raleigh, an English knight of great wealth, formerly a great favourite of the late Queen Elizabeth, as being, in the judgment of many, the most experienced and ablest man in maritime affairs that England possesses, and who has made some very remarkable voyages in the Indies, was imprisoned in the Tower on the accession of the present king James, upon suspicion of combining with other great lords to prevent His Majesty from coming to the throne. After remaining in the Tower until quite recently he at length obtained his release from the king, upon promising and giving security to take some good armed ships and make acquisitions of a part of the world hitherto unknown. He gave the king to understand, with every reason and probability, that he could make extraordinary acquisitions for His Majesty, and fired by this hope the king provided him with some facilities for arming eight finely equipped ships, which being prepared in every particular are only awaiting a favourable season to start on their voyage. (Ser Vat Rale, cavalier inglese molto rico, amato già et favorito grandemente dalla morta regina Elisabeta, come il più sperimentato et intelligente huomo delle cose maritime, che a giudicio de' molti habbia l'Inghilterra, et che ha passato curiosissime navigatione nelle Indie, fu posto prigioniero

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*nella Tore alla renuta del re Giacomo in questo regno per sospeto che rolesse egli con altri gran Signori contrastar la sucesione di Sua Maestà alla corona ; dopo esser dimorato nella Tore fino a questi ultimi mesi ha finalmente otenuto gratia dal re di poterne uscire con promessa et sicurtà di andar con boni raseli armati a far acquisti di parti di mondo fin hora incognite, dando ad intendere con ragion anco probabili di dorer far per Sua Maestà acquisti immensi ; dalle qual speranze alietato il re gli ha somministrato qualche comodità di armar oto forbitissimi raseli li quali essendo di già all'ordine par che altro non ri manchi al porsi in viaggio che stagion più farorerole.)*

*At this moment, through the means of a Frenchman, a most secret negotiation has arisen between this knight and the count of Scarnafigi to divert this undertaking into another channel, which promises an easier task with more beneficial results. If His Majesty will consent and will let him take with him four of his ships, to which others will be added from England and Holland, well provided with good troops, not only from this country but Frenchmen from Languedoc, who would be supplied by the duke of Montpensier, a relation of the duke of Savoy, he offers to enter the Strait without making his intentions known to anyone, and accompanied by other ships of Savoy, which he will find near Provence, he proposes to make a sudden attack upon the city of Genoa. He is excellently informed upon the situation and the conditions of this place, and he feels sure that he can take it by surprise. If the surprise should fail, though he thinks this impossible, his fleet would in any case be strong enough to take the place by force, as the Spaniards, occupied as they are with the defence of Milan, could not leave their own country a prey to their enemies in order to hasten to assist their neighbours. This same knight has conferred with the ambassador and shown him how this plan can be carried out, filling him with confidence that it will be fairly easy and almost sure of success ; but he requires the leave of His Majesty, a certain number of the royal ships, and money for the men (hora col mezzo di un francese è nato negocio secretissimo fra questo cavalier et il Conte di Scarnafigi di rivolger la destinata impresa in altra parte più facile et di più certa utilità oferendosi che se sarà con bona gratia di Sua Maestà la qual vogli anco acompagnar seco quatro dele sue nari con quali se ne agiungerano delle altre de l'Inghilterra et dell'Olanda ben all'ordine non solo di bona soldatesca di questi paesi ma della francese di Linguadoca che li sarà somministrata dal Duca di Montpensier, parente del Sig<sup>r</sup> Duca di Savoia, ruol'egli entrar nel stretto senza far conoscer la sua intentione ad alcuno et acompagnandosi con altre nari di Savoia che ritroverà verso la Provenza disegna dare all'improvviso sopra la città di Genova del sito et conditioni della quale essendo informatissimo sia sicura impatronirsene con sorpresa, et quando anco, cosa che stima impossibile, gli andase la sorpresa falita, si troverebe ad ogni modo cosi gagliardo di armata che la prenderebe a riva forza non potendo Spagnoli, ocupati nela difesa del stato di Milano lasciar il proprio paese in preda alli nimici per corer ad aiutar i vicini ; si è abocato egli medesimo col Amb<sup>r</sup> et gli ha fato tal dimostratione come tutta l'impresa che gli ha imbuito conceto di asai facile et molto riuscibile, ma ricercandosi per essa la licenza di Sua Maestà, qualche numero di nari regali et denari per la gente).*

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*The ambassador spoke about this to the king at the last audience and afterwards with Winwood. Both, according to what he told me, took it up readily, and the discussion and decision of the matter has been postponed to these last days. If they desire to go through with the affair, the ambassador proposes to send someone post, or to go himself in all haste to Piedmont to acquaint the duke of Savoy about it, as hitherto he is in complete ignorance of the affair, to learn his good pleasure and to get him to inform the republic, as they do not intend to take up this venture without the consent of your Serenity, and because they desire and will ask for a certain number of your galleys to have the use of them, especially in approaching the land, and until that time the count did not wish anything to be known or that I should write about it to Venice (ne ha già nell'ultima audienza parlato l'Amb' col re et poi col Vinut, li quali ambedue, per quanto egli mi dicera entrano facilmente, et è stata rimessa la consulta et la risoluzione a questi prossimi giorni, per la quale quando di qui segue il progresso del negotio disegna l'Amb' di espedir alcuno a posta o andar egli in persona con diligentia in Piemonte a farne consapevole il Sig' Duca di Savoia, che fin hora non ne sa cosa alcuna, a prenderne il suo beneplacito et far che per esso ne sia data parte alla serenissima republica si per non esser intentione loro di voler tentar tal cosa senza il consenso di Sua Serenità si perche desiderano et farano istanze di haver qualche numero delle sue galee per valersene particolarmente nell'acostarsi a tera et fine a quel tempo non desidera il conte che sene sappia ne ch'io ne scrivi a Venetia cosa alcuna).*

*From what I understood from him the matter will certainly go forward and the attempt will be made; seeing that almost all who are concerned in it are of such a temper that even if it offered greater difficulties than it does they would rather take the hazard and make the attempt than abandon it from fear. There is no question but the duke of Savoy, with his native high courage, will readily embrace the project, owing to the long standing quarrel between himself and that republic, and because there is no love lost between them. This feeling has been immensely strengthened of late owing to the facilities they have offered to his enemy against him upon several occasions. He knows that the loss of Oneglia was due to them; that their money constitutes the treasury of the Spaniards, while their port is always open to them and all their belongings are put at the disposition and pleasure of the Catholic King. But the greatness of these services rendered by that city at the present moment are the measure of the loss that would be suffered were the place to fall into the hands of others and Milan deprived of that port. Besides this he will be further stimulated by the hope of acquiring infinite riches, with which he will be better able to confront the army and the violence of Spain, and even if it should all come to nothing, His Highness would still, in the opinion of his ambassador, derive two notable advantages, on the one hand, because it would in great measure divert the forces of the state of Milan, which would have to turn to the defence of Genoa, while the enemy would be obliged to direct their attention and their outlay to more than one place owing to the uneasiness caused by the presence of such a powerful fleet in those seas; on the other hand, the king of England, by committing himself to this undertaking, whatever the event may be, will be driven to enter upon war with the Catholic king, and other momentous*

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*results must arise from this starting point (per quello che ho da lui inteso poso credere che di certo la cosa caminerà avanti, et ne seguirà il tentativo imperochè quasi tutti chi vi hanno da concorrere si ritrovano di tal dispositione che quando anco l'impresa contenesse difficoltà maggiori di quello che contiene tornerebbe più a comodo ad essi l'arrischiarsi et il tentarla che per timidità rimoversene; il Sig<sup>r</sup> Duca di Savoia non è dubio che con la grandezza naturale del suo animo prontamente abbraccerà il partito imperochè è molto antica la competenza et la poca bona volontà che passa fra lui et quella repubblica, acresciuta hora in estremo per le comodità che dano al suo nemico contra di lui in molte occasioni, sa che per il loro mezo gli fu presa Oneglia che i loro denari sono l'erario de' Spagnoli ma loro porto sempre aperto ad essi et tutte le cose loro servono alla volontà et alla comodità del Catolico, onde quanto è grande il servizio che al presente ne cava Sua Maestà da quella città altrettanto sarebbe il dano quando restando Milano privo di quella parte capitasse in mano di altri; oltre ciò li saranno acresciuti stimoli dalla speranza di acquistarne infinite ricchezze con quali potrà poi meglio contraporsi alle esserciti e violenzie di Spagna, et quando tutto andasse anco a vuoto non resterebbe per ciò, a giudizio del suo Amb<sup>r</sup>, di non ricerverna Sua Altezzà doi segnalati beneficii, l'uno di divertir le forze del stato di Milano in gran parte, che dovranno rivolgersi alla difesa di Genova, et doverà l'inimico aplicar l'animo et la spesa in più di un luogo per il sospeto et dano che li cagionera questa potente armata ne' mari d'Italia; l'altro che il Re d'Inghilterra impegnandosi con questa azione, qualunque evento sortisca, sarà per necessità tirato alla guerra col Catolico et doverano uscir da questo principio altre conseguenze rilevanti).*

*With regard to the king here, the undertaking has been represented to him as a very easy one, in which, by risking a small outlay, he may gain considerable wealth and glory. So far he seems attracted by it; Winwood's inclinations also point the same way, and in the hope of some personal profit he has offered to venture some thousand of crowns of his own money in the undertaking. Sir [Walter] Raleigh also would willingly exchange his proposal to look for new worlds and go to Genoa, where the hope of gain seems brighter to him, and even if he did not succeed he would find himself free from any obligation and so strong at sea that he would have nothing to fear from the forces of Spain (questo re medesimamente essendoli rappresentata l'impresa per molto facile con poca spesa che vi avanturi può guadagnarvi assai di ricchezza e di honore, fin hora vi si dimostra inclinato et con l'istesso fine vi si dimostra il Vinut, et con speranza de qualche profitto particolare si è offerto di ponervi del suo proprio bisognando qualche migliora di scudi; il Cavalier Rale cangerebbe ancor lui volentieri le sue offerte di cercar novi mondi col andar a Genova, ove la speranza di guadagno gli pare più facile et in ogni caso che non riuscisse si troverebbe già fuori dell'obbligo et così forte sul mare che non temerebbe in esso alcuna forza di Spagna).*

*I will inform your Excellencies from time to time of any further negotiations about this and whether they will direct their plans against any other places in the same way under this Sir Walter Raleigh. I also had an idea of employing him and his ships if your Serenity should decide at any time to give your flag to ships of war in the Mediterranean, but there will be no lack of other schemes and perhaps*

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*this will do for a beginning (di quello poi che più oltre si andera tratando ne darò di tempo in tempo riverente avviso all' Ecc. VV. o in altro luogo ove esso lo comanderanno agiongendoli solo come sopra Ser Vat Rale, havere anch'io l'occhio di valermi di lui et di suoi vaseli quando da Sua Serenità si fosse deliberato in qualche tempo di dar i suoi stendardi a vaseli da guerra nel Mediterraneo, ma non vi mancherano altri soggetti et forse che questo servirà di principio).*

*During the above discourse of the count of Scarnafigi I preferred to listen and gather information rather than talk, as in so important a matter I was unwilling to form any opinion of my own without first learning that of your Serenity.*

London, the 19 January, 1616. [M.V.]\*

[Italian; deciphered.]

Jan. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**604.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Bethune had a long interview with His Highness this morning and saw Verua afterwards. They thanked His Most Christian Majesty and bound themselves to nothing, but simply to inform your Serenity and the king of Great Britain, so that the proposal may disappear, because it is clear that the French only desire the duke to continue in travail, so that he may not be able to foment the princes and his other friends in France.

They are proposing to send the Cavalier Gabaleone to Berne, and the duke wishes the agent of Britain resident here to go there also. He has orders from his king to negotiate the settlement of the question of the Pays du Vaud for an obligation to pay 4,000 foot for six months.

Turin, the 20th January, 1616. [M.V.]

[Italian.]

Jan. 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Corfu.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**605.** GIERONIMO LOREDAN, bailo, and ANTONIO CIURAN, Proveditore and Captain of Corfu, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The consul writes from Otranto that orders have arrived from the Viceroy of Naples that all bertonis of Holland and England arriving on that coast to lade oils or other merchandise, shall be detained, and the same is to be done with any ship of war of any nation, while the exportation of oils and other merchandise is prohibited. By virtue of these orders three bertonis have been stopped at Gallipoli, which were lading oils for England, the men being made prisoners; at S. Cataldo four ships of Marseilles, three of ours and one of Ferrara were unladed; at Brindisi they imprisoned the master of one of our ships for three hours, taking away the ship's sail and rudder.

Corfu, the 20th January, 1616. [M.V.]

[Italian.]

\* This decipher was made from the original letter of Lionello. The official decipher may be found in the series *Senato, Secreta, Comunicazioni dal Consiglio de' Dieci*. The text here given differs in some particulars from that printed by Rawdon Brown from the decipher in his *Archivio di Venezia in riguardo speciale alla Storia Inglese*, pp. 196-200. This despatch and two following ones, given below, are also printed in the Appendix to Edwards' *Life of Raleigh*.

1617.

Jan. 21.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacei  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**606. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The count of Holstein has been waiting for a favourable wind to cross to England, and he has finally decided to leave to-day for Zeeland. If the weather continues bad he will go to Calais and cross from there.

The Hague, the 21st January, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 21.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacei.  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**607. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The Predestinants have been granted the use of the church where the English ambassador prays with those of his nation. They will begin to preach there to-morrow, and are to arrange a time before or after the preaching of the English, according to the convenience of the ambassador Carleton.\*

With regard to the treaty of Zanten I find that the French are ill-satisfied that the king of Great Britain should alone have taken on himself to make his proposal. The French ambassador said to me last Thursday that the king had had his little run and he wondered if he was satisfied with the reply given to him by the States. It was not proper to treat separately an affair in which the two kings had had a hand; the Spaniards are crafty and they may take advantage of this. From what he said and from other things I perceived that he had done what he could to deprive the king of England of the glory. I also perceived it from some words let slip by Barnevelt, who said that the Most Christian King ought to have his share in the affair.

The proposal to send ambassadors to the king of England has not been carried out. The provinces of Holland and Zeeland agree to it, as they are interested, owing to their trade with the English, but the other provinces have not yet decided.†

The Hague, the 21st January, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 26.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacei.  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**608. PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The ambassador of England has recently arrived here with a great company of the cavaliers and magnates of that kingdom.‡ He was received at Lisbon by His Majesty's orders, and has been entertained by all these kingdoms. The duke of Lerma and the principal lords of the Court have been to visit him, and he has had his first audience of His Majesty, which was complimentary. The

\* Carleton sends an account of this in his despatch to Winwood of 24 January, 1617. *Letter from and to Sir Dudley Carleton*, pp. 86-8.

† The resolution of sending commissioners to His Majesty, touching merchants affairs, sticks long in Zeeland, without answer from thence; which is the more marvelled at because the business doth chiefly concern that Province, but I conceive the stay to depend upon the Assembly of the States there. Carleton to Winwood, 14 Jan., 1616, o.s. *State Papers. Foreign. Holland.*

‡ Lord Roos arrived in Madrid on the 15th, accompanied by a train of some 150 persons.

1617.

report continues that he has come to negotiate a marriage between the prince of England and the second infanta, an affair which met with many difficulties when it was broached here previously, owing to the conditions demanded on this side for liberty of conscience, and other satisfaction. However, there are many who believe that the king of England is greatly attracted by it, owing to the reputation he thinks the marriage would bring him, and, therefore the actual state of affairs may prove advantageous to the negotiations, as at the present time they will be delighted to have a chance of diverting the king of Great Britain from interesting himself in the affairs of Italy, and from encouraging the interests of the Dutch. He will also speak about Savoy, and will ask His Majesty to order his ministers to carry out the treaty of Asti. He told me that this affair had been strongly recommended to him, as it troubles his king greatly, and he read me a letter which he had recently received from the Secretary of State, telling him how important it is, not only to the interest of the king of England, but also for all the princes of Europe, not to allow Savoy to succumb, and urging him to be diligent in this affair. He told me that the chief difficulty was in disarming, as the Spaniards will never consent to lay down their arms until your Excellencies have settled with the archduke. He said that they do not understand this in England, where they only insist upon the execution of the treaty of Asti. This is not possible, he thinks, unless your Excellencies' affairs are arranged, as they are connected with those of Savoy.

I represented the present state of affairs, and justified the cause of your Excellencies. I also thought well to tell him of my recent offices with the nuncio and the French ambassador about my request to His Majesty to arrange a general conference to treat for universal peace, and I told him the substance of the reply, in order to dissipate any doubt he might have, and show that your Excellencies are aiming at the general quiet. I have not, however, told any one about my negotiations with the duke of Lerma for an accommodation.

Madrid, the 26th January, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 27.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

609. To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.

You made a prudent reply to the remark of the Secretary Winwood as reported in your letters of the 22nd ult. We also commend your resolution, expressed in yours of the 29th to represent to the king at your first audience that we look for a recognition from His Majesty of the true and sincere object of our operations. We direct you to continue on the same lines, pointing out the large amount of assistance rendered to the duke of Savoy by the republic, and that what we have done is far from having caused the rupture of the treaty of Asti or of the peace. Everyone knows that if the prince had been abandoned he could not have resisted alone, his fall would have gravely prejudiced Italy, while raising the pretensions of others, so that instead of peace we could only expect fresh troubles. The preservation of the duke of Savoy and of our republic are of great importance both to His Majesty and

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to other princes, wherefore we merit the greater commendation for our promptitude in fulfilling our promises, especially as our sincerity is known to all.

Ayes 113.

Noes 0.

Neutral 3.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 27.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**610.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

From your Serenity's letter of the 6th January, and the copy of those of Donato of the 1st inst., I have learned of the mission of Biondi to Savoy. The ambassador of Savoy directed Biondi to tell His Highness all that he had done at this Court and *the slight hope he had of obtaining anything important, so that if His Highness could not obtain help elsewhere, he should seek all honourable means of coming to terms with the Catholic king, because a defensive war only would ruin the country and he would have to make peace afterwards at his enemy's will.* This last idea is also that of the king and the English ministers. Winwood told the ambassador of Savoy and me that it was necessary either to make peace as best we might or an active war against the Spaniards, attacking the state of Milan. They have always favoured such an offensive war here and blame a defensive one as full of peril and costly without any hope of profit. If Biondi acted imprudently and insisted too urgently, I feel sure that it was not according to his instructions as your Serenity sees that the ambassador with the king treats very differently from such low and timid ideas.

Your Excellencies must know that when Biondi was sent by the ambassador news had not reached here of the duke's success, that the Spaniards were dislodged from Piedmont and other things. The ambassador feared that without help from England the duke could not maintain himself, and that is why he gave such advice. It may have been presented differently by Biondi and was very inopportune as events have turned out, and little to the taste of His Highness.

The ambassador of Savoy had audience of the king last Sunday and made the usual request for help. His Majesty replied that he was so occupied with the affairs of the kingdom, that in order to escape from the annoyance of these perpetual audiences he had appointed the Secretary Winwood and Edmondes, with whom he could speak of anything that he liked, and with a few other words dismissed him. The ambassador has since conferred with these two more than once, and received the usual replies to keep up his hopes and postpone a decision. Nevertheless he is daily expecting something better.

The king has recently been in continual motion, one day he has come to London and departed the next, and thus a thousand things which need his presence remain undone, and the Court is without any news worthy of note. His Majesty is expecting the Baron de Tour, the extraordinary ambassador of France, who is his old servant when he was in Scotland. He has prepared lodging and entertainment for him, so as to receive him with extraordinary honour.



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Some news has arrived from Spain from Lord Roos, that he had not yet reached the court. They are pleased here that he has been received honourably, but someone, noting a small matter, has asked why the Spaniards gave him a Jew's house as his first lodging given in the king's name.

An event connected with religion in Ireland has displeased the king, a lord of the country having hanged some serjeants in his garden, who had orders from the Viceroy to hang a priest there, who was living secretly in his house.

One Grimaldi, nephew of the Marquis Spinola, another Spinola and one Meltz, a relation, have been here recently. When they left on the 7th ult. they took with them secretly one Don Ascanio, an Italian, who from being a Capuchin had become a Protestant here, was minister of a church and married. This event has caused a considerable stir, and has greatly prejudiced the reputation of the archbishop of Spalatro, as they conclude from this and similar other events that the Italians who change their religion do so for any reason but a spiritual one, and when they have filled their purses they take to their heels.\*

London, the 27th January, 1616. [M.V.]

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Jan. 27.  
Consiglio di X.  
Parti.  
Secrete.  
Venetian  
Archives.

611. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the COUNCIL OF TEN.

*In the audience which the count of Scarnafigi had on Sunday, he spoke with His Majesty about the undertaking of Genoa, of which I wrote in my last despatch to your Excellencies. He found the king quite disposed to take up the matter and he seemed to approve of the scheme, telling him to talk it over with Winwood and Edmondes. They met on the following day and discussed the matter, and early yesterday they sent the ambassador again to confer. They told him that they had turned over his proposals in their minds and they wished to be informed upon two points, the ease of the enterprise and security that if it succeeded His Majesty should have his proper share of the booty. The count replied that the execution of the scheme would be a very easy matter in itself, and especially if it were placed in the hands of a prince of such ability as his master, if he wished to undertake it ; hitherto he had not spoken by order of His Highness, but of his own motion. They might trust him that no pains would be spared to bring about a successful issue. With regard to the other point he replied that with all the benefits received by His Highness from His Majesty, and from the even greater ones expected, if this action increased the hostility between the king and the Spaniards, His Majesty need expect nothing from the duke but the most constant efforts to please him upon every opportunity. How much more certain was it, therefore, that when a monarch of the first rank employed a number of his ships and men, he would have his share of the booty, and the greater the force sent the more assuredly would matters*

\* Here is a rumour that the Italian preacher Ascanio is run away, being, as is said, enticed by one Grimaldi, kinsman of Spinola's, whom he accompanied on his way as far as Dover, and since his wife nor friends have no news of him. Chamberlain to Carleton, 18 Jan., 1616 o.s. Birch: *Court and Times of James I.*, i. p. 889.

1617.

*proceed to his satisfaction. The solution of the two points satisfied the ministers and they told him that on that evening or on the following day they would report the whole interview to His Majesty and they would afterwards inform him of the decision. They expressed the desire that the count should go in person to Piedmont with all speed, upon another pretext in order to acquaint His Highness with everything and arrange the matter on that side also, he is quite ready to do this for his own personal satisfaction. (Nell' audienza che hebbi domenica il Conte di Scarnafigi parlò con sua Maestà sopra il negotio dell' impresa di Genova del quale nel mio passato ne scrissi reverentemente all' Eccellenze VV. ritrorò tuttavia il re assai disposto alla trattatione che mostrò di aplaudir i suoi pensieri et li disse che anco di questo ne parlasse con li Signori Vinut et Edmond; con qual essendosi ritrovato l'Ambasciatore il giorno seguente et passato fra di essi qualche discorso per all' hora, hieri di novo lo chiamarono a colloquio el li dissero che havendo posto essi consideratione sopra le sue propositioni desideravano di esser informati di due cose: della facilità della impresa et della sicurezza che riuscendo bene ne sia Sua Maestà per haver la parte che se li deve del botino. Rispose il Conte che la facilità si giova grandissima da se stessa et che poi posta la esecuzione nelle mani del Sig<sup>r</sup>. Duca, suo Sig<sup>r</sup>. principe di tanto valore, quando però la rogli intraprendere che fin hora non parla di ordine di Sua Alta<sup>a</sup>, ma di proprio suo motivo, si potera credere che non vi harebe mancato di ogni industria per condurla a bon fine et sopra l'altro quesito li rispose che da quella osservanza che ha sempre dimostrato Sua Alta<sup>a</sup> verso la Maestà del re, fra li beneficii ricevuti et da quelli che ne aspetta masime hora che con quest'azione più se inimicherà con Spagnuoli non si deve atender dal Sig<sup>r</sup>. Duca se non in tutte le occasione quelli efeti che potranno riuscire più à sodisfatione di Sua Maestà ma per tanto maggiormente rendersi certi de haverne la sua parte del botino si potera impiegargli il re maggior quantità di vasselli et di genti perche quanto più fosse stata potente la sua armata tanto più si assicurava che le cose precederebbono a suo gusto. Piacque a questi ministri la resolutione delli doi punti et li dissero che quella sera o il giorno seguente haverebbono riportato l'intiero della trattatione a Sua Maestà et di suo ordine poi li haverebbono dato la resolutione dimostrando essi inclinatione che il Conte vadi in persona in Piemonte con diligenza soto altro pretesto per far saper il tutto a Sua Alta<sup>a</sup> et acordar anco da quella parte il negotio, il che farà egli molto volentieri anco per suoi particolari rispetti).*

*They seem inclined here to arm sixteen royal ships for this undertaking, but as the expense would be very heavy it is questionable if there will be so many: if we add to these the eight of Sir Walter Raleigh and those provided by other individuals, they may do considerable harm to the Spaniards, especially as Raleigh intends to push the attack home, not sparing the coast, the ships nor anything else that is connected with Spain, and where booty may be expected (dimostrano qui inclinatione di armar per questa impresa sedeci navi regali, ma dovendo esser molto grande la spesa dubito che non saranno tante; onde congiunte a queste le otto di Ser Wat Rale et quelle che fornirà altra privata si potrà far delle cose assai in danno de' Spagnuoli, perche in particolar il Rale ha in animo di darle dentro ove può et non li perdonar ne a coste de' paesi ne a vasselli ne a qualsivisia altra cosa che dipendi da Spagna et ove se ne possa sperar guadagno).*

1617.

*The other day when the ambassador asked me whether the most serene republic would be willing to take part in this enterprise, sending a certain number of their galleys with the fleet, I replied that in such difficult matters as this the ripest reflection and greatest deliberation were necessary before a decision could be taken, and no one in the world could tell them exactly, but for my own part I advised them not to build this enterprise upon any hope of Venetian galleys, because it might easily happen that other affairs of the republic for the protection of the Gulf and similar circumstances would not permit them to send. In this way I avoided committing myself to any particulars, and I have not opened my mouth to anyone else upon this affair, and I will not do so without the express command of your Serenity.*

London, the 27 January, 1616. [M.V.]<sup>o</sup>

[Italian; deciphered.]

Jan. 27.  
Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**612.** That the 800 ducats payable to Guilio Muscornio for travelling expenses, by decree dated 27 March, 1615, be paid to the legitimate assign of Sir William Smith of England on account of his credit with Muscornio of 600 ducats, as stated in the receipt given to Sir William, which has been presented to the chiefs of this council by the Secretary of the English ambassador resident here.

Ayes 18.

Noes 2.

Neutral 2.

The mandate was made out on 28 February, 1616. [M.V.]

[Italian.]

Jan. 27.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**613.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

They write from Savoy that the duke has returned post from Turin to confer with Lesdiguières, but it is not yet known what decision they have taken. The marquis has arranged for a composition of the differences between the duke and the Bernese upon the Pays du Vaud, by which the Bernese are to pay 4,000 foot for six months for the duke.

Nothing of moment has happened in Friuli. Our troops have ravaged to within four miles of Fiume, and captured a convoy. Our troops have also gained successes in Istria.

This evening we hear that the Albanians under our orders have plundered all the territory of Veguinal near Moschenizze and have ravaged the country elsewhere, taking a quantity of booty.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Constantinople, Milan, Naples, Florence, Padavin, Dolce, the Hague, Mantua.

Ayes 128.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[Italian.]

\* Printed in Rawdon's Brown's *L'Archivio di Venezia*, pp. 200-202. See note to No. 608 at page 417 above.

1617.  
Jan. 28.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**614. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The English ambassador sent to his king the reply to his proposal about restitution in Cleves and Juliers. He perceived the difficulties in the way of a speedy decision, and seeing that the ambassador wrote to him about the doubts whether the Spanish ambassador had instructions to treat of this, since the archduke asserted that he had not, and suggested that Carleton, as a young man ambitious for distinction, had passed the limits, His Majesty has directed his ambassador to again state that the king has been assured by the Catholic ambassador that his master is disposed to carry out the treaty of Zanten, and as it cannot be done by the end of February, he will appoint the end of March, old style.

The ambassador performed this last Tuesday in the General Assembly of the States.

Carleton communicated what he was to propose to the French ambassador. The latter was astonished, and said to me that the king of Great Britain continues to pledge his authority and reputation further; that this affair ought to be carried out in concert, and he saw that the Spaniards would try and sow discord between the States and the king of England. He added that he had fresh advices that the Spanish ambassador at Paris continued to assert that his king had certainly not given such orders to his ambassador resident in England, and M. de Langerach said the same in letters, which arrived the day before yesterday. Nevertheless the English ambassador asserts that the ambassador of Spain has express commissions, and he told me that general circumstances bear this out. He added that there was no reason to wonder why the Spaniards had approached England, as his king had always had the quiet of these states at heart, and asked Spain to make a settlement, which the French have not been able to do for various reasons.

Up to yesterday morning I had not heard whether the ambassador had given anything in writing as is usual, and as was expected, to be discussed for a reply.

The Hague, the 28th January, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 28.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**615. SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador at Rome, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The pope stopped me yesterday and said: With regard to taking the doctor's degree at Padua without a profession of faith, of which we spoke some months back, we were told that heretics would not receive the degree, and yet they are. I said that I had simply pointed out that no change had been made except to transfer the authority of the Counts Palatine to a doctor. The pope declared that the counts exacted a profession by order of your Serenity, but the point was that heretics, German and French, received the degree. I pointed out the difficulty of this, since the university was Catholic and the degree would be more prejudicial and dishonourable to them in their country than useful, and heretics can have all they want in many

1617.

universities. The pope replied: But we believe the reverse, as the profession of the Catholic faith is not required. The matter weighs very heavily upon us, you will write and ask for a remedy. I promised to write, but said that His Holiness had been ill-informed, as your Serenity had no intention of conferring the degree upon heretics. The pope declared that he knew that heretics had received the degree this month.

Rome, the 28th January, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Jan. 30.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**616.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*I went to congratulate Chalil Pasha on his elevation as Grand Vizier. I told him that I and all the other ambassadors were delighted at his appointment, and we hoped that his influence would be used to stop the unjust imposition of the carazo, which was contrary to the capitulations. He promised to make the proper representations to His Majesty.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 30th January, 1616. [M.V.]

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

Jan. 30.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**617.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*After seeing the Grand Vizier, I went on the following day to call on the ambassadors of France, England and Flanders to arrange about the carazo. We resolved to meet in the house of France, where we decided to make a joint representation in the name of all four, and left France to draw it up. That done it was sent to the house of the English ambassador, who was not greatly pleased with it, as it related how the French ambassador in the time of Sultan Suliman went in person to the conquest of Van with 200 horse, while the English ambassador accompanied the Sultan Mehemet to Agria, with other irrelevant matter. The English ambassador declared that he did not want anything said about Agria, so that France also decided to leave out Van. The document was discussed for a long time, England and Flanders being anxious to accuse roundly the Caimecam and the Cadi Moro, relating all the ill-treatment accorded to their dragomans, possibly believing that when the king heard this he would punish the authors of such scandals. I represented that we ought to speak with great reserve of their officials. I also thought that we should ask that dragomans who were not subjects should be specifically exempted from the carazo. The ambassadors approved of my arguments. A slight difference arose between France and England, because France had spoken at the beginning of the document of the emperor of France and the king of England. France explained that they usually call his king emperor here. Finally the matter was settled by putting all the sovereigns together as 'our masters.' After discussing some other points the document was approved and we took leave. When I got home I felt that the French ambassador's document was hardly expressed with the requisite force, and I decided to draw up another. The next morning I sent it to the French*

1617.

*ambassador for his approval. He was quite satisfied and both England and Flanders concurred.*

*Accordingly we went to present our document to the Pasha. Some of the officials raised objections, saying that it ought first to go to Chislar Agassi, but we all declared that if the document did not reach His Majesty, we would all four wait at some place where he must pass and present it, as our princes would never consent to their subjects paying the carazo. The Pasha was ready to give us satisfaction, but we fear that Chislar Agassi may wish to take the opinion of the Mufti, in which case the affair would fall to the ground. However, we can do no more and can only await the reply.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 30th January, 1616. [M.V.]

[Italian; deciphered.]

Jan. 31.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**618.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Resident at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

They are collecting ships here for an expedition, but it is not known whither it is destined. Some talk of designs upon the places in the Gulf and even of the port of Malamocco. This rumour about entering the Gulf has caused many to desert. They have charged an Irish subject to raise troops for these ships. He has bound himself to find 500 men of that nation, partly here and partly in Rome.

Naples, the 31st January, 1616. [M.V.]

[Italian.]

Feb. 3.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**619.** To the BAILO in CONSTANTINOPLE.

You will continue to insist upon the abolition of the carazo until you succeed.

With regard to the affair of the *Archenda*, we receive the enclosed information to-day from the Proveditore of Zante. In conformity with this we allow you to relieve the English merchant, Arthur Garnai, of what concerns the portion of the *Archenda* bought by Cariatì our subject, which may amount to about 200 ducats, we understand. We leave it to your prudence, however, to settle that difficulty as advantageously as you are able. We think it right to add, that as this merchant made so much ado about so insignificant an affair, it may be doubted if he has not some ulterior object, to use this payment to fortify greater pretensions. It is, therefore, necessary to act cautiously and to abstain altogether from putting anything in writing.

Ayes 155.

Noes 3.

Neutral 3.

[Italian.]

Feb. 8.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**620.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

They write from Savoy that the duke and M. Lesdiguières are to leave for the army on the 2nd or 3rd inst. The Savoyard troops have recovered Buri.

1617.

Nothing of moment has happened in Friuli. There have been some skirmishes in Istria. The Usocchi have sallied out of Segna and done damage to the island of Cherso and some ships. On returning they were pursued by our ships and abandoned their booty.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Milan, Naples, Florence, Padavin, Dolce, the Hague, Turin.

Ayes 183.

Noes 6.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 3.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disproci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

621. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Since my last despatch the count of Scarnafigi has seen Winwood and Edmondos five times. The first three were spent in conversation without decisions; at the next, on Monday, the two deputies tried to persuade the count to proceed to Piedmont with letters credential from His Majesty to tell His Highness that the affairs of the princes in France are in such a desperate state that they are nearly lost, to the great detriment of the general cause. His Majesty wishes to know whether His Highness would prefer to see the help of England given to himself or the princes of France as His Majesty cannot render assistance in more than one place. The ambassador recognised that this was one of the usual devices to spin things out and to rid themselves possibly of his continual importunity by sending him to Piedmont. Accordingly he replied that he had never shirked the fatigues of a journey when His Majesty commanded, but instead of letters credential from His Majesty he would rather take instructions and a declaration in writing of the points which should be proposed to the duke. Without this he would not go, but could answer himself that the king must first declare what help he proposes to give, and then His Highness will say whether he desires it most for the princes or himself. But the deputies would agree to give anything but letters credential, neither would they state the extent of the help, so that the plan of the journey is at present abandoned. They proposed to refer everything to the king that same evening, and report to the ambassador the reply on the principal points about help.

The following morning they sent for him and told him that His Majesty had fresh letters from France, saying that the Marshal Lesdiguières had written to the Most Christian from Piedmont on the 23rd December, that he was with the duke of Savoy, and he hoped this move would produce good results, facilitating an accommodation with the governor of Milan and increasing the reputation of the crown of France. The king of England rejoiced greatly at this hope and so he proposed to delay his plans for helping the duke until he saw what would happen after the marshal's arrival in Italy. Moreover, he was bound to await the negotiations of Lord Roos and felt sure of good news thence, as the Spanish ambassador told him he was certain that peace would ensue.

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The Ambassador Scarnafigi could not contain himself within his usual terms of address, and feeling that his long patience might reasonably come to an end he answered somewhat sharply. He went so far as to say that these excuses of His Majesty to avoid his obligations are judged by the world to be rather due to want of faith than of power, because as His Majesty is considered prudent, everyone believes that he would not have promised his help in the treaty of Asti if he had known he could not keep it, and since the treaty till now, thank God, no accident has occurred to weaken him, nor has he spent any extraordinary sum of money, so the world makes the aforesaid judgment on seeing that he will not keep his word. (*Non pote' contenersi l'amb' Scarnafigi di non trascender all' hora l'ordinario termine riservato del suo parlare, et parendoli che una così lunga pacientia poteva hormai ragionevolm<sup>te</sup> dimostrarsi stanca, li rispose assai vivamente, arrivando fino a dire che queste scuse di Sua M<sup>ta</sup> di non far quel che è obbligato sonno giudicate dal mondo derivare più di mancamento di fede che di potere, poiche essendo tenuto S. M<sup>ta</sup> per prudente, credesi da ogn' uno che non haverebbe promesso la sua assistentia nell' accordo d'Asti, se non avesse conosciuto di poterlo osservare, et dall' accordo in qua, si sa' lodato Iddio, non esserli occorso ne disgracia ne occasione per le quali habbia convenuto indebolirsi, ne spender straordinaria quantità di denaro, onde vedendosi ch'ella non vuol attender la sua parola, ne forma il mondo il sop<sup>o</sup> giudicio.*)

At this Winwood became warm, and heated words passed until Edmondes quieted things by saying that to satisfy the ambassador he would tell him what he ought not to do, though he knew it was wrong for a person in his position to let such things out, namely, that the king had been so prodigal in the past that at present he had nothing to spend, and the miseries of his case were not only as great as he thought the ambassador had heard, but much greater than was generally known, and, therefore, they were absolutely compelled to dally in this fashion in their negotiations with him, and to keep postponing until money reaches His Majesty from some source, to be employed on that service. He hoped it would come within two months, meanwhile they must have patience. (*A questo toccar di fede riscaldossi il Vinut et vi passano delle altre parole sensitive assai, fin che l'Edmonds li acquistò, dicendo all' Amb<sup>re</sup>, che voleva per sua sodisfazione appallesarli quello che però non si conveniva, et che sapeva di far male, per la qualità che teneva, a lasciarsi uscir di bocca, cioè, che il loro Re era stato per il passato tanto prodigo, che al presente non haveva da spendere, et che le miserie della sua particolar casa erano non solo così grandi come crede che l'amb<sup>r</sup> haverà giù inteso ma anco molto più di quello che li può esser pervenuto a notizia, et che perciò convenivano a vira forza nelli negocii che haverano con lui andar scaramucciando in questa maniera et portando il tempo avanti, fin che capitì per qualche banda denari a S. M<sup>a</sup> da poter impiegar in quel servizio, che spera poter arvenire intorno a' due mesi, fino al qual tempo è necessario accomodarsi con la pazienza.*)

The ambassador thanked him for what he had said, as though it was altogether contrary to what he desired, yet it was spoken with sincerity and to enlighten him, and did not tend to appease him with



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frivolous childish pretexts. He had been twenty-three months engaged upon these same negotiations without advancing a single step, and they ought to be abandoned if only for shame's sake. That if His Majesty had no money at present and hoped for some in the future, he should at least make an assignment for that time, so that with this small earnest money in hand the duke might be appeased and the king would be free from this perpetual worry. They promised to obtain audience from him of His Majesty next week, and so the ministers have terminated these lengthy negotiations, without any result except to continue the game of passing the ambassador on from one to the other.

London, the 3rd February, 1616. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 3.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**622.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The ambassador Tour has not yet arrived from France nor has news come of his leaving Paris. It seems that those of the Court who favour the party of the princes and Edmondes in particular, have to a great extent won over the king, so that the Baron de Tour will be less grateful to him than many believed, judging by their ancient acquaintance. It is understood that among other commissions he is to ask His Majesty not to send Edmondes back to France as ambassador, as he is too suspect, owing to his friendship with the princes and with Bouillon in particular. I enclose a letter written to the Most Christian by the latter, which your Excellencies may not have seen.

M. Caron, ambassador of the States, had audience the other day to inform His Majesty of the prorogation by the States of their final reply upon evacuating the places. He told the king that his Masters were involved in continual expense, through suspicion of their neighbouring enemy, but were yet disposed to do something to help the duke of Savoy if he was not abandoned by His Majesty, and, therefore, they begged him to come to some worthy decision, which they would immediately imitate. The king replied that he had already given powder and would do more as occasion demanded.

The secretary of the English ambassador at Constantinople has arrived here with the confirmation of the news of the outrages of the Turks against the English, as your Excellencies will have heard. They are talking of sending an extraordinary ambassador to the Porte to make strong representations upon the matter, but ultimately decided it was better to send letters and give other orders to the ambassador there. These were sent off by post a few days ago. In this connection they complain here of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, because of the way he harasses the Turks with his galleons, and by sometimes using an English one he renders this nation hateful to that people. They complain of the Spaniards as suspect of being in agreement with the Turks to chase the English from those waters, and they have spoken about it to the Spanish ambassador resident here. He justified himself, enlarging upon the continued enmity between the Catholic king and the Turk,

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and that at present a great fleet was preparing at Naples for an attempt upon him at the first opportunity, to harass him as much as possible. The merchants interested go about saying that the French and Venetians are not displeased at these troubles, and in an underhand way they assist where they can at the exclusion of the English from the Levant, in order to increase and recover their own traffic.

A man has arrived with letters from the English ambassador with the Great Mogul, assuring His Majesty of the good-will of that prince and of the Persian king. If he is inclined to take up a great business they will give him every advantage. They wish to take from the Turks the trade in silk which they bring from Persia in caravans, and transport to England by way of the sea, the ambassador having found ports for lading and convenience for carriage, to the great advantage of this kingdom and a corresponding damage to the Turks. The affair seems so great here that their minds are hardly capable of grasping it, though they discuss it. One of the greatest difficulties in the way is money, as to buy the silk of the first year they need three to four millions of gold, and they cannot obtain more than a million by letters of exchange from the kingdom. However, the ambassador writes that the Persian is willing to advance the money upon good security and hostages, until the second year, and that is the position up to the present (*e venuto un' uomo con lettere dell' ambr. Inglese appo il Gran Mogon, che apportono a S. Mtà sicurezza della buona volontà di quel Principe et del Persiano verso di lei; la quale se haverà animo di abbracciare un gran negozio, li sarà da essi con ogni termine di cortesia somministrata la commodità. Vorebbono levar a' Turchi la condotta delle sete che con le caravane levano di Persia, et trasferirlo in Inghra, per la navigatione dell'Oceano, havendo l'ambr ritrovato Porti da caricarle et commodità di condurle, con utile grandmo di questo regno, et altrettanto danno de' Turchi. Pare qui il negozio così grande, che il loro animo non vale a capirlo, tuttavia se ne discorre; una delle maggior difficoltà che s'appresentino è del denaro perche bisognandovi per comprar le sete del primo anno tre in quattro milioni d'oro, non possono con lettere di cambio cavarne dal Regno più d'un milione tuttavia l'ambr li scrive che il Persiano con buone sicurtà et ostaggi si contenterebbe di darli commodità di credito fino all' anno secondo, et fin hora la cosa si ritrova in tal stato).*

His Majesty hoped by now to have raised 400,000 crowns on his jewels, but the Dutch merchants, who were to pay it, have recently replied that they will have nothing to do with it unless the jewels, which are now in England, are taken across the sea, so that they may see them and estimate their value. His Majesty and the Council will not suffer them to be taken away, but are trying to induce the aldermen and citizens of London to bind themselves to repay the money. There will be difficulty here also, and if His Majesty cannot obtain a more ready provision for the journey to Scotland I do not know what he will decide to do.

There are seven to eight hundred sailing vessels on the coasts of Holland, Zeeland and Flanders detained by these contrary winds, which have now lasted for three months, and there are about three

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hundred in the Downs here (*le Dune de Inghilterra*) waiting for a wind, to the great loss of the merchants, as the corn for Spain is spoiled, and fifteen ships with herrings for Italy will probably return to unlade, as they cannot now arrive for Lent.\*

London, the 8rd February, 1616 [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**623. LETTER of the DUKE of BOUILLON to the MOST CHRISTIAN KING.**

I am grieved that your Majesty still retains an evil opinion of my actions. My enemies seek by every artifice to render me hateful to your Majesty. It is three months since I withdrew to my house to enjoy repose. I have sometimes seen the duke of Nevers, but there was no prohibition against this and I did not think I was doing anything suspicious. I have never found him anything but perfectly loyal. I understand that I am accused of having understandings outside the kingdom and of having sent persons to Holland and Germany to act to your prejudice. This is a manifest calumny, and the truth may easily be discovered. I now only desire to have your Majesty's commands, I place myself under your Majesty's protection, but if I am so unfortunate that my enemies have deprived me of your favour, I shall be compelled to take steps in my own defence, and if I am attacked I shall resist with the help of my subjects and friends and those who are bound to help me by ties of blood, but without prejudice to the service which I owe to your Majesty and to France.

Your Majesty's humble subject and servant,

HENRY DE LA TOUR.

Sedan, the 17th January, 1617.

[*Italian; 12 pages.*]

Feb. 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**624. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

I have been waiting for some days to discover how best I may raise men in this kingdom to take them to Italy, in accordance with your commands. I have had difficulties in finding out the intentions of the persons who offer themselves, as they pretend to have my promise that after they had explained themselves the republic would not give the charge of the levy to others, unless we could find any to offer more advantageous conditions. I would not bind myself to this without express orders from you, so that I cannot send definite news. Yet from their conversation and other signs it is clear that the English nation in war and in other things claims to be

\* We have hitherto the warmest winter that I think hath been seen, which proceeds from the settling of the wind continually at south-west, whereby there lie above one hundred and fifty sail, one and other, in the Downs, that are to go southward; and some of our East-India ships have lain there for wind for almost ten weeks. Chamberlain to Carleton, Jan. 4, 1616, o.s. Birch: *Court and Times of James I.*, i. p. 388. Writing later, on Feb. 8, o.s. Chamberlain states that over three hundred sail were then in the Downs, 'more than ever were heard of to lie there so long.' *Ibid.* p. 390.

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superior to all other nations, and is by no means disposed to yield this claim least of all to the Dutch troops, which are less esteemed by them, so that I think it hopeless to expect that the English would accept lower conditions than the Dutch, or that the colonels would take lower honours, and possibly the king and Council would not agree to it. Therefore, I think that the one who makes the levies, if he is a noble and will bring at least 3,000 foot, should have the same title as Count John Ernest, so that disputes may not arise through the English finding themselves inferior to the Dutch in the field, either in pay or in their commander, and then all would be order, instead of strife and tumult. On the other hand I understand that the English will not claim higher conditions, but will be content with what the Dutch receive. I hoped to embark the English at somewhat less cost than the Dutch, as I thought the manner of getting troops here was easier, since all could be obtained from one province near the sea. This cannot be done there. I am told, however, by a captain, that my plan can only succeed partially, if the captains are so base as to be content to take the first who offer themselves and put them in ships, without considering who they are. But if they have a higher sense of honour they will pick their men out of many bad ones, and take them from various parts, some far from the sea, further perhaps than in the Netherlands.

I have had many conversations upon the manner of payment, but I think it will be best for your Serenity to keep to the arrangement made with the Dutch.

The English ships will cost somewhat more than the Dutch, because merchant vessels generally cost more here than at Amsterdam, as they employ more sailors; it is true that they are better for the Mediterranean and more adapted for those other services besides carrying soldiers for which your Excellencies may require them. The vessels of the more northern parts are excellent, as they stand higher out of the water than the others, and they need nothing but artillery to fit them for the voyage and to be raised a little in the part above deck, but their masters could easily see to this.

The more I go into this affair the more I see that it will not be advantageous for your Serenity to take from here a body of English troops under a Scotch general or colonel, as the nations are so opposed that they cannot join together under any circumstances, so that the offence taken by England at seeing the highest charge go to Scotland would prevent the colonel from being supported by the same nobility and persons of quality that an Englishman would have. Many even of the common soldiers would not serve under a Scot, whatever was promised to them, and in order to be obeyed he would have to bring a composite force of English, Scotch and Irish, among whom there would be continued brawls and insubordination. Such things are seen every day, and the only way to prevent it is to see that the captain and men are of the same nation.

If Lord Dingwall were not a Scot, his friendship and good-will would point him out for the honour, if occasion required. But in a matter of such importance I could not do anything but bring these considerations to the notice of your Excellencies.

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I have heard something about the intention of the Earl of Sussex to come and serve your Serenity. He is one of the first nobles of England and a Knight of the Garter, but I fear his demands would be too high, and I am not entirely satisfied about his other qualities.

Lord Willoughby abides by his offer, and he seems to me to be the best up to the present of those of this mind. He is a soldier, has a strong sense of honour, and would advance but moderate pretensions for himself, but for the sake of the honour of his nation and his house he would not wish to be less honourably treated than count Ernest of Nassau. His estate is towards the north, which is the best part of England, and thence he would obtain all his men and would use the ships there, which as I have already said, are excellent. He would have a ship of his own built especially and would be ready to serve both by sea and land in any place he was ordered. He is one of those who asked for a promise that after he had opened his mind your Serenity would not give the charge to another, unless he offered better terms, otherwise his reputation would suffer. (*Continua il S<sup>r</sup> Baron Vilibi nell'istessa sua offerta, et per il mio debile giuditio parmi migliore che fin hora conoschi di tal pensieri. E egli soldato. Ha gran fin d'Honore et sarebbe per se stesso assai moderato nelle pretensioni, ma per honor della natione della propria casa et sua persona non desiderebbe esser trattato niente meno del Conte Hernesto di Nassau. Egli che tiene il suo stato verso il nort sarebbe da quella parte, che'e la migliore d'Ingh<sup>ra</sup>, tutta la sua gente, et si servirebbe di quelli vasselli che come ho gia detto sonno bonissimi, et per se haverebbe un vassello proprio da lui fabricato, et sarebbe pronto per servir in mar e in terra travagliar qualunque et in qualunque luoco chi l'EE.VV. commandassero, et dal quale se ne potrebbe cavar ogni sorte di servizio, et anco de quelli che scrissi riverentemente all'EE.VV. a primo Dec<sup>r</sup>. E egli de quelli che per trattar meco più particolarmente et con più sodisfattione di V. Ser<sup>ta</sup> ricerca parola che doppò che haverà aperto il suo animo non se dia ad altri il carico se non apporta quel tale condition più vantaggiose, stimando che ciò riuscirebbe con troppo smacco della sua riputatione.*)

This is all I have heard about the commander. For the lower officers there are a number of men of experience, but all agree they will not be put below the Dutch.

If your Excellencies intend to employ any number of this people in the future, I venture to observe that it is impossible to overcome the difficulty of the weather, as we see in the case of the Dutch force, and, therefore, it would be well to begin in good time, and when the winds are propitious, namely from April onwards. Moreover, as the king is to go to Scotland on the 25th of March, it is necessary to have his consent before he goes 300 miles away.

London, the 3rd February, 1616. [M.V.]

[Italian.]

Feb. 3.  
Consiglio di X.  
Parti  
Secrete.  
Venetian  
Archives.

625. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the COUNCIL OF TEN.

*In the negotiations which have recently taken place, the royal deputies told the ambassador of Savoy that His Majesty was quite*

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willing to assist His Highness with naval forces in anything that might be for his service, but he would not on any account entrust that undertaking to Sir Walter Raleigh, as he was determined that he should go to the Indies to make an attempt of a different character. Accordingly all negotiations about the Genoa enterprise are at present broken off, although I am inclined to believe that Raleigh, once he had got his ships clear of these shores would rather have entered the Mediterranean than commit himself to the Ocean. He has spent 200,000 crowns in arming eight ships, and as he is deeply in debt, few believe that he will ever return to England again, but will take to piracy, perhaps plundering everyone alike, and make himself a rich booty; his spirit is such that he may easily make the attempt. (*Nella trattazione di questi passati giorni hanno li deputati regii delto all' Ambr di Savoia a nome del Re, che S. Ma<sup>te</sup> vuol bene aiutar S. Altezza con forze marittime in quello che sarà conosciuto essere di suo servitio, ma non vuol per alcun modo che se dia questa impresa a Ser Wat Rale, essendo risoluto che egli se ne vada nell' Indie a tentarne altre di diversa qualità; et perciò resta per ora quasi tronca ogni trattazione sopra l'impresa di Genoa; se ben io per me credo, che il Rale, come habbia sciolto le nari da queste ripe, sia più tosto per entrar nel Mediteranco che mettersi all' Oceano; poichè havendo speso ducento millia scudi in armar otto vasseli, et essendosi molto indebitato, pochi credono che sia più per retornar in Ingh<sup>ra</sup>, ma gettandosi alla rapina, et forse sopra cadauno indifferentemente, procurarsi grandi acquisti; et è di tal valore che li saprà ben tentare.*)

The chief reason why the king is unwilling to employ him may possibly be his disinclination to meddle with an affair which may so greatly offend the Spaniards, as even if the attempt succeeded he would never trust him to give him his rightful share of the gain.

Raleigh appears ready to obey and go to the Indies, because if he gave the slightest inclination of other designs he would be ruined. Time will disclose what he will decide to do when once he is at sea.\*

London, the 3rd February, 1616. [M.V.]

[Italian; deciphered.]

Feb. 4.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**626.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The English ambassador has not yet received any reply to his second exposition, but at his request, the States General have deputed two persons to tell him that the princes interested must be consulted, and therefore he must have patience. The ambassador is therefore waiting and does not know what will be decided.

The French ambassador continues his accustomed offices and says that nothing ought to be done without the intervention of his Most Christian Majesty. He says he thinks it impossible that the king of Spain can have approached England alone, and soon they will see clearly.

\* The decipher is preserved in the series *Senato Secreta, Comunicazioni del Cons. di X*, Vol. VIII. The document is printed in Rawdon Brown's *Archivio di Venezia*, pp. 202, 203.

1617.

The Ambassador Carleton, who knows that the French are complaining, told me in confidence that he fears he will have to complain also that his king had not due satisfaction, owing to the devices of the Spaniards; that he had fulfilled his instructions as a minister and was awaiting the results.

On another occasion he asked me if I had any news about the going of the Ambassador Bon to England. I answered, No. He replied in the same sense as I reported before.

The Hague, the 4th February, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 6.  
Senato,  
Secretaria,  
Disposci,  
Germania.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**627.** ZORZI GIUSTINIAN, Venetian Ambassador in Germany, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Colonel Stodder is in Friesland, whither he returned from the Austrian camp, to ask for advancement. He does not care about that service and he is the best captain they have. He says that they are short of everything, and if they had the same advantages as our men they would give a different account of themselves. *Copy.*

Prague, the 6th February, 1616. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 7.  
Senato,  
Secretaria,  
Disposci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**628.** OTTAVIO BON and VICENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The extraordinary ambassadors for England and the States have departed. The one for Spain will leave on Thursday next, it is understood.

Paris, the 7th February, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 7.  
Senato,  
Secretaria,  
Disposci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**629.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Resident at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Irishman has not found his task of collecting 500 soldiers of his countrymen so easy a matter, and up to the present he has only succeeded in getting together twenty-five or thirty.

Naples, the 7th February, 1616. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 9.  
Senato,  
Secretaria,  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**630.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

Our last letters from Turin, of the 6th inst., relate the taking of Crevacuore by the prince of Savoy, and the rout of a Spanish force. The capture is a valuable one.

The duke and M. Lesdiguières have left Turin for San Damiano, already attacked by the Count of San Giorgio.

In Istria our troops have taken Lumino, an important place of Pisino. Our troops at the Villa of Cliopus have been attacked and defeated from Gradisca.

1617.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Turin, Milan, Naples, Florence, Mantua, Coire, Zurich, the Hague.

Ayes 114.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[Italian.]

Feb. 10.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**631.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Baron Tour, the extraordinary ambassador of France, arrived in England six days ago. He was almost lost at sea, and to escape they had to cut away the mast. He is so worn by his experiences that he has not been able to leave Dover, where he is staying to recover. I know that the king's unwillingness to receive him has reached his ears, as it is publicly said among the courtiers that the baron is not of a rank equal to the other ambassadors sent by the Most Christian to other places, and so His Majesty is somewhat affronted, which provides a bad beginning for negotiations.

Last week I wrote that the Dutch would not advance money on His Majesty's jewels, now they add that the other provisions of money have all fallen through. Letters have come from Scotland from the earl of Mar, the lord high treasurer there, that things cannot be ready at the appointed time, wherefore many think it will be impossible for the king to make the journey, and already His Majesty seems to have changed his mind somewhat, and has condescended to consult the Council, seeming inclined to take their opinion and to remain if they think it better, in view of the state of affairs in the world.

The Spanish ambassador went recently to the royal council to ask that Sir Walter Raleigh should not be allowed to go to the Indies. He is to leave in two months with eight ships full of nobles, all well appointed, to acquire mines. The ambassador said that it will cause much harm and will deeply offend the Catholic king to see countries subject to him and the ships of his people ill-treated by Raleigh. The Council replied that Raleigh was going with limited commissions from the king in the service of His Majesty, and things were so arranged that he should not pass the limits of his duty and his Catholic Majesty would have no reason to complain. The ambassador was not appeased by this reply. He returned to the council and spoke even more strongly, and produced a book with descriptions of two other voyages made by Raleigh in the Indies, full of cruelty and plundering, from which he concluded that the third would not be different. The Lords of the Council were offended at this and refused to reply, but directed Winwood to tell the ambassador privately that he would do well to rest content with the first reply, as the king was set upon Raleigh making the voyage, and if he overstepped his instructions his head would pay for his disobedience, and so it would be better not to trouble the king or Council again. (*Receverono con disgusto quei Signori del Consiglio questo replicato ufficio dell' Ambre ne volsero farli altra risposta ma commisero al Secrio Vinut che li dicesse a parte Che Sua Eccza haverebbe fatto bene di restar sodisfatto alla prima risposta già fatta,*



1617.

*poiche era jerma mente del Re, che il Re andasse al suo viaggio nel quale se avesse contravenuto le sue instruttioni, che li sonno state date, hareva la testa con che pagherebbe la disubbedienza, et però non doresse intorno di ciò più travagliar ne S. M. ne il Consiglio.)*

*An English pirate is in the Downs with two ships. He left here with licence to go in quest of pirates, but I know that he had patents from the ambassador of Savoy that if he captured any Spanish ship he might go to Villafranca to sell it. Lord Rich had the same licence. He sent three ships buccaneering. As he has done so most secretly, without the knowledge of his king or his ministers, I beg your Excellencies to keep it hidden, because if it came out His Majesty would be highly offended with Scarnafis, much harm would be done and various heads would fall. (L'istessa licenza ha havuto il Baron Rich, che ha mandato tre vascelli in corso, il che facendosi qui secretissimamente senza saputa del Re ò de' Ministri supplico le Ecc. VV. reverentemente a tenerlo ben sepolto in se stesse, perche risapendosi di qui, oltre il disgusto che S. M<sup>a</sup> professerebbe con Scarnafis, molti resterebbono rovinati et diverse teste si perderebbono.)*

*The ambassador of Savoy issued these commissions in order to harass the Spaniards as much as possible, and also because when their ships go to Villafranca His Highness may use them as he may think necessary from time to time.*

Count Scarnafigi had audience of the king yesterday at Theobalds, and has not yet returned. I will report his negotiations in my next despatch.

It is stated among the merchants that four, ships which were coming from the Levant, have been taken by pirates, to the great loss of the mart.

I acknowledge the receipt of your Serenity's letters of the 13th and 19th December.

London, the 10th February, 1616. [M.V.]

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Feb. 11.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

632. To the AMBASSADOR at ROME.

With regard to the doctor's degree at Padua, it is certain that the Counts Palatine in times past were not accustomed to ask for any profession of faith when they granted it, and they granted the degree in all faculties and sciences. Consequently our ordinance does not alter the custom which has always been observed, but if anything restrains it, since it grants the degree only to those who desire it in philosophy and medicine, in which to testify that anyone is a good philosopher or a good physician is of no prejudice to the Catholic religion, and Greeks and Jews are admitted without any scandal. It is ordained that this may be done privately by a doctor deputed specially, and we hope that His Holiness will be satisfied and recognise the grounds of the representations which have been made to him. You will only perform the office if His Holiness refers to the matter and not otherwise. We shall be glad to know who gave this information to the pope, if you can find out.

Ayes 148.

Noes 2.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

1617.

Feb. 11.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**633. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The letters to be signed by Stodder (*Studler*) were on the way to Brussels while Pasini was travelling here. When he arrives there to-morrow, if the bad weather does not prevent him crossing to Antwerp, they will be ready for him.

The Hague, the 11th February, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 11.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**634. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The extraordinary ambassador from France, M. de la Nouë (*Nua*), arrived on Monday evening. It is said that he has instructions to levy a certain number of troops, English, Dutch and others, as they do not trust their own, fearing that they will fly to the prince. I called upon him. He wished me to believe that matters were passing smoothly in the Grisons by means of his king, but I have heard differently from Padavin, and the English ambassador here told me that Wotton advised him of the same.

The Hague, the 11th February, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 11.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**635. SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador at Rome, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

I had my usual audience of the pope yesterday. He asked me if certain books prohibited by the holy office, such as those of de Dominis, formerly archbishop of Spalato, and others which came from Germany, were not prohibited with us. I said that the manifesto of de Dominis had certainly been prohibited, and the others would be examined and purged if they contained errors. I told him I had written about the doctorate at Padua, and he might rest assured that your Serenity had made no innovation. The pope complained of the introduction of Doctor Sertoria.

Rome, the 11th February, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 12.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**636. ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*With regard to the document presented to the Pasha for His Majesty by all four ambassadors, we are divided at present between hope and fear. But the latter is greater than the former, because the Grand Vizier knows little and because of his irresolute nature. He knows our reasons and would like to give us satisfaction, but does not know how to begin. He has asked for a list of all the Franks described in the carazo; it was found that the number of subjects of your Serenity was ninety-two, fifteen of them married; of France eighteen, of England twenty, and of Flanders twelve. But your Serenity's subjects must be more numerous. He asked the opinion of the Chislar Agassi, who told him to do what he thought best. He then asked for*

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*our capitulations, and as the French ambassador sent his without consulting us, we were compelled to follow his example. Our capitulations differ from those of the others, which simply state that the carazo and no other imposition may not be exacted from their subjects who come to live here. The pasha has also asked for the Mufti's opinion, who has already declared against us, so that I am very anxious about the result, especially as he stated that the capitulations are of no value when they are contrary to the laws. However, I am keeping the matter alive and use what influence I possess with the Pasha to induce him to inform His Majesty of what has been done by the four ministers. He promised to do this for us, but he is very cold in action.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 12th February, 1616. [M.V.]

[Italian; deciphered.]

Feb. 15.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**637.** To the KING OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Prince Julius Francis, duke of Saxony, recently came to this city and presented letters of recommendation from your Majesty. We received his offer of service with great satisfaction, and we thank your Majesty. We shall preserve a grateful remembrance of his offer, of which we should willingly have availed ourselves if the difficulty of obtaining a pass through the Grisons at present had not prevented us. However, we have assured the duke that, although we cannot avail ourselves of his offer at present, we will bear it in mind in order to take advantage of it.

Ayes 159.

Noes 0.

Neutral 3.

[Italian.]

Feb. 16.

Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**638.** At the petition of Giulio Muscorno, a prisoner, that Marco Loredano be not allowed to take part in his trial.

Ayes 9.

Noes 4.

Neutral 1.

[Italian.]

Feb. 16.

Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**639.** That the Inquisitors of State and State attorneys, the committee for the case, do inform the prisoner, Giulio Muscorno (who has requested that on certain points of his defence the evidence of the king of Great Britain may be taken, whilst on another account he petitions for enquiry to be made of the queen, to prove what he has urged in his defence), on reasonable accounts no question soever will be put to Their Majesties, but should he choose to bring forward other witnesses to bear evidence to the same facts, the law will endeavour to satisfy him.

Ayes 14.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

[Italian.]

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Feb. 16.  
Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**640.** That Antonio Foscari, prisoner, on the charge brought against him, purporting how when Giovanni Maria Lugaro, one of the gentlemen in waiting of the Queen of England, was dining at his table, had asked him *chi negociava la regina et anco contra natura*, he was reproved by Lugaro, said in his defence: "That I used such obscene language in speaking of the queen with that gentleman, let him be applied to. That Foscari be informed that no witness of any sort will be examined concerning the said accusation, which will not be brought against him at the trial. Also that when the process against Foscari is presented this resolve be read."

Ayes 14.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

The oath of secrecy was administered by the doge to all the Council.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 16.  
Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**641.** That our Inquisitors of State and State Attorneys, the committee for the case, inform Antonio Foscari, prisoner, that the archbishop of Canterbury, cited by him as a witness, for suitable reasons, will not be examined on any point in his defence, but should he mention anyone else, let him add whomsoever he wishes, and endeavours will be made to give him satisfaction.

Ayes 18.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 16.  
Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**642.** That Foscari be likewise told that his late valet, Ottavio Robbaza, produced by him as a witness, will not be examined; for good reasons his suit will not be granted as to investigating whether Muscorno chose to have Renaldo Perundini examined touching Foscari's having spoken ill of the king, in order that the examination might subsequently reach His Majesty.

Ayes 18.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 16.  
Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**643.** Draft of a despatch addressed by the COUNCIL OF TEN to GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary resident in England.

To proceed as secretly as possible in collecting evidence for the defence of Foscari and Muscorno. But should the king or his ministers get word of anything displeasing to them, he shall inform His Majesty that justice forbids the denial to persons under trial of evidence in their favour. So we deem it fitting that His Majesty should be informed that we have commissioned you to take particular information from several lords and other persons on

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behalf of the accused, with regard to statements made concerning their connections (*interessi*), actions and mode of life. We trust that if you should have occasion to go to His Majesty for support, he will graciously vouchsafe it to you, so that the appeal to justice made by Foscarini and Muscorno may be complied with.

Ayes 13.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 16.  
Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**644.** That in like manner the Cavalier Foscarini be told that neither will the Prince Don Luigi of Este be examined. Should he choose to name anyone in his stead, let him do so.

Ayes 12.

Noes 0.

Neutral 3.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 16.  
Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**645.** That Foscarini be also informed that it is not thought fit to return the letter presented by him, signed by the king of England, which Foscarini wished to have sent back to England that the date might be added.

Ayes 13.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 16.  
Consiglio di X.  
Parti  
Secrete.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**646.** That the letter of our Secretary in England, regarding the undertaking of Genoa, ostensibly proposed by Sir Walter Raleigh (*Ser Vat Ralle*) to the king of Great Britain, be committed by the Secretary of this Council, after an oath of the strictest secrecy has been taken, and the names of all written down, to the Savii of the Cabinet, and if they see fit, to the Senate also, so that they may do what they think best for the public service.

Ayes 13.

Noes 2.

Neutral 1.

This was done, the oath being administered and the names taken. A copy of the letter mentioned, of the 19th January, was left in the hands of the Secretary, Giovanni Rizzardo.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 17.  
Senato.  
Secrete.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**647.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.

With regard to the representations made by our ambassador in Spain that the troubles in Italy cannot be ended without a general accommodation, his Catholic Majesty, by means of the duke of Lerma, recognised the necessity and asked that negotiations might be begun at that Court. He offered to obtain authority from the emperor and archduke, so that if we did the same with the duke of Savoy the

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negotiations might be taken up. We have, therefore, sent the necessary instructions to our Ambassador Gritti, so that we may not be found wanting in our desire for peace, if it can be obtained upon just conditions. We send this for information, and if you are assured that the count of Scarnafes, ambassador of Savoy, has informed the king of this in the name of His Highness, you also will inform His Majesty about it, as an office of confidence, but you will not do so otherwise.

The like to the secretary Surian at the Hague, except the last paragraph.

Ayes 138.

Noes 2.

Neutral 2.

That the following be sent to England instead of the last paragraph.

We direct you to ask audience of the king and inform him of the above, as we are sure that His Majesty will approve, seeing that we have never shut the door upon peace, that it be opened, and we wish to impart this as a sign of continued confidence, although we cannot predict what may be the outcome of these negotiations.

Ayes 31.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**648.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The ambassador Scarnafis spoke to the king a week yesterday simply upon the subject of helping the duke. He made complaints and left nothing undone to move the king. His Majesty replied that he intended to help His Highness, but he wished the duke and republic would decide to make offensive war on the Spaniards instead of defence, and then he would take his share, although it could not be in money, because he was very short of it for the moment. He would, however, give 6,000 valiant English soldiers, from whom he would obtain excellent service. He wished first to ascertain whether the Huguenots, who are now serving in Piedmont, will not ask for leave to return to France and defend their own homes. He was also awaiting replies from the princes of Germany and the States, as he wished them to join in. He said he had received letters from Lord Roos from Spain two days before saying he had had his first audiences and urged peace. The Catholic king replied that the king of Great Britain had great influence with him and he would show it to the world, but he did not know if he had such power with the duke of Savoy as he professed, hinting that he should induce the duke to do what the Spaniards desired for the sake of their reputation. Lord Roos asked to have this reply in writing to form a basis for negotiation. The king of England told Scarnafis that fresh news must come from Spain in two days and he would confer with Winwood, who would tell him what the Council had decided to do. Eight days have passed since the audience, and no letters have come from Spain. The ambassador saw Winwood on Monday and received the same reply, with a great deal about offensive war, and the necessity for your Serenity and the duke to make it. The ambassador replied that the duke was quite willing, provided His Majesty supplied the means.*

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Four days ago the ambassador received letters from the duke of the 23rd January with a copy of the proposals recently made by the ambassador Bethune in the name of the Most Christian, and the reply of His Highness, telling him to see His Majesty and ask for advice, so that he may answer Bethune more decisively, and ask for his opinion as a mark of respect and because of the part taken by His Majesty in the treaty of Asti. His Highness points out to the ambassador that this new proposal is a trick of the Queen Mother, of whom he complains loudly upon various points, saying that she is constantly doing something to the prejudice of himself and his interests.

Upon this the Ambassador Scarnafis asked for a fresh audience of the king, and when he could not have it so soon, he showed the letter to Winwood, asking him to communicate to the king what His Highness said. Yesterday morning Winwood told him that His Majesty does not look favourably upon Bethune's proposals, as he fancied that the French wanted to have the negotiations for a settlement all to themselves, without the king of England sharing as he ought, because he took part in the treaty of Asti, but that His Majesty would consequently like to consider the subject more in order that he might be better qualified to give the duke his opinion and advice.

Three days ago Baron Tour had his first public audience, when he did not go beyond the usual general compliments. The king afterwards left London and will return to-morrow with the idea of remaining there for the whole of the following week for the benefit of the ambassador.

Upon the journey to Scotland I can say no more except that while some are persuaded that it will never take place, others declare that His Majesty will not change his mind. He has even sent to prison one individual who said that he would not go,\* and I hear that the other day he unsheathed his sword and declared they were traitors who said he would not go, threatening to have their heads off (*anzi ha fatto impreggionar alcuni che scommetterano per il no, et intendo che l'altro giorno sfoderasse la spada chiamasse per traditori et minacciasse di tagliar la testa a chi dicera che non vi anderebbe*).

Seven ships, all new, have been got ready by the merchants in the river here for the East Indies. They are the finest that have ever been seen at sea. This affair of the Indies may enrich many individuals, but it impoverishes the kingdom, as they have to take from it a great quantity of ready money.

The weather continues to be so extraordinary that all philosophers, physicians and men of judgment are agreed in predicting a great famine and plague in England next year, and the want of wheat is beginning to be felt very severely now.

London, the 17 February, 1616. [M.v.]

[Italian; the part in italics deciphered.]

Feb. 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

649. ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Seeing that the Pasha had come to no decision about the carazo after eighteen days, I went to urge him on and had a long audience upon

\* See Gardiner: *Hist. of England*, iii, p. 82.

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*the subject. I told him that the ambassadors proposed to come together, but knowing that he did not like this, I had come alone in the name of all. He replied that he had done what he could. He had shown the document and capitulations to His Majesty, who had referred him to the Mufti. The latter had declared that the man who had written the capitulations deserved to have his hands cut off. The Cadi had written him a letter saying that the affair was settled and that the Pasha alone had incited the ambassador to act. These things greatly worry the Pasha, and increase his weakness, which I recognized from the first and which led me to augur badly for our affair. However, as a last resort, I gave him your Serenity's letter, asking him to give it to His Majesty, telling him that the other ambassadors were also hourly expecting letters from their princes, this being considered the most important affair ever negotiated with the Porte. If the other ambassadors had presented letters, I should be sanguine, but being alone I dare not feel sure of success.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 17th February, 1616. [M.V.]

[Italian; deciphered.]

Feb. 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacei,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**650.** PIERRO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The English ambassador has gone, much earlier than he announced and than the affairs which he was to have conducted seemed to demand. The duke of Lerma and another minister spoke to him about the marriage, but they did not open negotiations. The almoner of the Spanish ambassador in London has come here, so far as I can find out, to sound His Majesty and the ministers, and if they are well disposed, the king of England will send an ambassador to negotiate.

An assembly of theologians has recently been held at the house of the cardinal of Savoy, the duke of Lerma attending, to discuss the difficulties of religion in this affair. Opinions were varied, they say. They were greatly indignant at the request made by the ambassador that the English should have free permission to sail in the Indies, the more so because he hinted at the hindrances which the English could put in the way of the Spaniards and the passage of the fleet, from which the king there wishes to abstain owing to the friendship between the two crowns. The duke of Lerma waxed wroth at this request, and made loud complaints because the king of England had recently not only permitted an English knight\* to go to the Indies with the intention of establishing a footing there, but had given him fourteen galleons and many soldiers for the purpose.

*For this reason the ambassador had no success in his negotiations, especially as they had disputes about the affairs of Savoy. The ambassador told the duke of Lerma that his king was bound by his promise to help the duke. His Excellency replied that if His Majesty decides to keep a force at the strait of Gibraltar the king of England will not be able to help the duke of Savoy. This answer provoked the Englishman to retort, much to the duke's anger, that his king was so*

\* Sir Walter Raleigh.



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*powerful at sea that it would not be so easy to prevent the passage of his forces wherever he wished, while his Excellency was well aware that wars are also made by diversions.*

Madrid, the 17th February, 1617.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Feb. 21.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**651.** OTTAVIO BON and VICENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The declaration of the Council of State and the decrees of Parliament have been published, declaring the dukes of Vendome and Mayenne, the Marshal de Bouillon, the marquis of Courre, President Le Jay (*Leggie*) and all who join them, to be guilty of high treason. The princes on the other hand continue to ask for foreign help by their agents in Germany, England and elsewhere, so that the undertaking will be more difficult for the king than is thought. The queen can trust no one except the marquis of Ancres and she even suspects the duke of Guise, who commands her armies. However, she obtains information by means of her secret spies, and she has made a searching enquiry into the actions of the English ambassador, who left here a month ago, as she has heard of various ill-offices performed by him to the prejudice of the royal service and in favour of the princes. However, she is determined to carry everything through by force and will not hear of negotiations.

Paris, the 21st February, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 21.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**652.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Cavalier Gabaleoni has left for Berne. The agent of England accompanied him with orders from the king to intervene in the settlement made with them. They propose the renunciation of the Pays du Vaud in favour of the Bernese, who are to undertake to help the duke with 4,000 foot paid for six months, giving them 100,000 crowns and certain munitions of war. If they cannot obtain all this they will confine themselves to having the troops, whom they wish to be ready by the 10th April. Prince Vittorio has promised to renounce the Vaud, as the Bernese desired this for greater assurance. The matter is of high importance and will produce great results, bringing great prestige to the arms and defence of the duke.

Biondi has been sent to England with very urgent letters to the king. He set out post. The count of Searnafis is recalled and the duke has deputed Biondi to be his agent in that kingdom. He assigns him a salary, but I do not think he will style him minister, to save the expense, however, he takes credentials to the king, queen and prince.

Turin, the 21st February, 1616. [M.V.]

[*Italian.*]

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Feb. 23.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**653. To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.**

We send you the copy of a paragraph of a letter of the Secretary Dolce, resident at Zurich, that you may see the lies disseminated there by a gentleman of Count William of Nassau and his evil intentions with regard to the Princes of the Union, so that you may be warned and declare that this Count William was well treated by us, as we gave him refreshments, told off a gentleman to accompany him, showed him the arsenal and other notable things, and provided him with an accommodation of money, and we shall always treat him as his merit deserves.

We also send you a copy of what our resident at Naples writes about the galleons being armed by the Viceroy there. This has given us occasion to propose to arm four great galleys, two of which will be ordered very soon. This is for information, to be used where fitting.

Ayes 139.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[Italian.]

Feb. 23.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**654. To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.**

The enemy attacked unsuccessfully the Villa de Cani; they were pursued by the Governor Giustinian. They retired to Trieste. The Procurator General in Dalmatia has made some successful raids.

The last letters from Turin of the 18th relate that the duke advanced to the Tanaro, skirmished with the Germans and drove them to the very gates of Alba. The place is expected to surrender. Prince Vittorio after destroying Mascerano will proceed to Vercelli or join his father.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, Turin, Milan, Naples, Florence, Mantua, the Hague, Dolce, Padavin.

Ayes 169.

Noes 6.

Neutral 0.

[Italian.]

Feb. 24.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**655. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*The courier has returned from Spain who went two months ago to recall Lord Roos. He brings word that Lord Roos has already left Court and by his reckoning he should now be in France, whence they expect him shortly, to hear further particulars from him of his embassy. Meanwhile he has written to His Majesty by this last courier that the Catholic king, to please the king of England, had promised to order Don Pedro of Toledo to cease from harassing the state of the duke of Savoy any longer with his arms, until further orders, and from this step towards peace they might derive the best idea of the intentions of His Majesty for a settlement.*

*I have these particulars from the earl of Buckingham (Bocchinger), the king's favourite, who has been admitted to the Council this week, at*

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*the age of twenty-two, an unusual thing.\* Up to the present neither the king nor Winwood has communicated this news to the ambassador of Saroy, so that I cannot say what His Majesty's opinion about it may be, and if he will open his eyes to see this deception that is hidden beneath. The ambassador Scarnafis hopes to have audience in two or three days and perhaps he will speak about it then.*

After the first public audience that the ambassador extraordinary of France had of the king ten days ago, he has had no other in public beyond what is appointed for him to-morrow, and that is what he has tried to make the ordinary ambassador here believe. But the latter has discovered that on Tuesday when he went to Court to pay visits to some great lords he passed secretly from the wardrobe of Lord Hay to the privy chamber of His Majesty, with whom he conversed for about an hour, and on his return home he sent a gentleman post to France. When the ordinary ambassador heard this, although he dissimulated his feelings, he felt very deeply, so some of his intimates have told me, as he takes it for a sign of the slight confidence that both parties place him in, as he is considered suspect and hated by the king here, while on the French side they cherish almost the same feelings, because he is the son-in-law of the High Chancellor Sillery, who is in disgrace with the present Government, and some one tells me he hears from Paris that he will soon be removed from here and his successor is already named. I am sorry for this as I know well that since the fall of his father-in-law this gentleman has become very hostile to the Spaniards and entirely opposed to their negotiations, so much so that the Catholic ambassador here has complained about it in a letter to the duke of Monteleone, saying he has no greater enemy in this kingdom.

It has not been possible hitherto to discover everything that took place at the secret audience given by His Majesty to Baron Tour. I only know that His Majesty made urgent representations for the liberation of the prince of Condé, which will prove fruitless, especially during the present rumours of war, as it is not likely that the Most Christian King will give a chief to the princes and so greatly increase their power by adding to their party the first prince of the blood. Upon whatever conditions he is released from prison it is certain that as soon as he is out he will pursue his own ends and will try every means to recover his authority.

As the servant of your Excellencies I have been to call upon the Baron Tour. After the usual compliments he began a long disquisition upon what had happened in France since the death of Henry IV., interpreting the actions of the queen in the most favourable light, and those of Condé and the other princes in a bad light. He concluded by saying that the Most Christian King no longer needs to fear the rebels, but can punish them at his pleasure, and from the manner in which he bore himself and from what I have already heard, I believe that this may be the principal object of his embassy.

From Flanders and France comes the news that very secret negotiations are in progress between the Marquis Spinola and the

\* He was admitted to the Council on Tuesday, Feb. 14 (Birch. *Court and Times of James I.*, p. 390) and took his seat for the first time on Feb. 14. *Cal. State Papers Domestic*, 1611-8, page 434.

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count of La Marck, and the Most Christian King for the capture of Sedan from the duke of Bouillon. There is some difficulty, because some do not wish Spinola, who has bought the claims, and consequently the Spaniards, to take possession of it, but rather that the undertaking should be made in the name of the count of La Marck, who has sold. But it is thought that France will not mind whoever it may be, provided that Bouillon is despoiled.

This morning the king visited the Star Chamber and in the presence of a large concourse spoke at length and with eloquence against duels. He was expected to speak upon some other matters, but he did not do so, and he afterwards took leave not to go to that council again for the rest of his life.\*

There is news among the merchants that near the Strait of Gibraltar there are more than ten ships of war of the Catholic king, who are awaiting the troops of your Serenity to attack them on their way. I am writing this to the Secretary Surian at the Hague, to forewarn him and induce him to take such steps as his prudence may suggest.

We have this week received two letters of your Serenity of the 27th January, I will execute the instructions.

London, the 24th February, 1616. [M.V.]

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Feb. 25.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**656.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Measures have been taken to repress the ardour of the soldiers gathered at Texel. Count Maurice sent at once to Alkmaar to order eighty musketeers of the company of Colonel Onderson, an Englishman, to proceed to Veringhen. He also advised that the leaders of the mutiny should be made prisoners. The Colonel left on Tuesday with Colonel Rocalaura. He has not yet returned, but is expected to-day or to-morrow. It is thought that all is well as there is no news.

The Hague, the 25th February, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 25.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**657.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Resident in Holland, to the DOGE and SENATE.

They are still postponing the reply to the proposals of the king of Great Britain, while they are waiting for the reply of the

\* I forgot . . . to write that the king was expected at the Star Chamber, whither he went the day after the term; and there is a case of challenge 'twixt two youths of the Inns of Court—Christmas and Bellingham—he took occasion to make a speech about duelling, wherein he was observed to bestow many good words on the Spanish nation and to gall the French more, which he since interprets to be only touching that point. . . . The issue of all was, that the gentlemen, who could say little or nothing for themselves, were fined at 1,000*l.* apiece, and imprisonment in the Tower during pleasure.

It was thought there would have been something spoken touching the journey into Scotland; but there was *altum silentium* in that and other things that were expected. Chamberlain to Carleton, Feb. 22, 1617. Birch: *Court and Times of James I.* i. p. 456.

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princes interested. The English ambassador says that the king will certainly not allow these negotiations to fall through, and he feels sure that the Spaniards will make restitution.

The Hague, the 25th February, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 27.  
Consiglio di X.  
Parti  
Secrete.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**658.** That the letter of the Secretary in England of the 27th ult., dealing with the affair of Genoa, be communicated to the Savii of the Cabinet, with power to read it to the Senate, if they see fit.

Ayes 15.  
Noes 0.  
Neutral 1.

The letter was committed to Domenico Dominici, the Secretary.\*

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 27.  
Consiglio di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**659.** Endeavors should be made to examine Nicolo Dolfi, who is outlawed, who is cited as a witness for many points of the defence of Giulio Muscorio.

Ayes 1.  
Noes 11.  
Neutral 8.

[*Italian.*]

Feb. 27.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**660.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*In the matter of the carazo the pasha has been vigorously attacked by his enemies and by those who cannot see what is just; they have gone so far as to say that it is a chance for him to make 50,000 sequins and more, and that the capitulations were made without the king's knowledge and ought to be torn up. In fear of this I got a young favourite of the pasha to recover our capitulations for me some days ago, the others remaining in the pasha's room. Your Serenity's letter was presented to the Sultan three days ago and I hope that it will induce him to come to a just decision.*

*The pasha having heard that the matter of the carazo was not mentioned in the old capitulations, sent to all the ambassadors to ask if we had the capitulations of the Sultan Suliman. After a long search I found ours and sent it to the pasha. After two days he sent for the French ambassador and in a long discourse tried to make him despair of obtaining anything. However, the ambassador stood firm, yielding only on the point of married merchants, who are very few and intend to depart. The following day the Mufti sent for me and made a long speech, saying that the capitulations could not stand against the laws. I replied that His Majesty was bound to keep his promises.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 27th February, 1616. [M.v.]

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

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\* At page 421 above.

1617.  
Feb. 27.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**661.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*Two days after I saw the Mufti the pasha sent to tell me that the carazo was removed. I thanked him warmly. I am much relieved, especially as I know that they proposed to extend the carazo to all their towns and gradually force foreigners to pay all their taxes.*

Dalle Vigne de Pera, the 27th February, 1616. [M.V.]

[Italian; deciphered.]

March 2.  
Consiglio di X.  
Parti  
Secreta.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**662.** To the COUNCIL OF TEN.

That the letter of the Secretary Lionello, in England of the 3rd February last about the project of Genoa be communicated to the Savii of our Cabinet, like the preceding ones, after secrecy has been enjoined, and then to the Senate if they think fit.\*

Ayes 15.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

The communication was made to the Savii, and a transcription of the letter was consigned to them in the hand of Domenico Dominici, the Secretary.

[Italian.]

March 2.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**663.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Last Saturday the Spanish ambassador sent word to the Secretary Winwood that the republic of Venice, by her ambassador at Madrid had referred to the Catholic king all her differences with the archduke Ferdinand, and that the duke of Savoy was also willing that his differences with Don Pedro of Toledo should also be dealt with in Spain, adding that this disposition of the republic and the duke argued a near approach to a peaceful settlement in Italy. This news caused a great disturbance in the mind of the king of England, according to information which immediately reached me. On Tuesday His Majesty communicated it to the ambassador of Savoy telling him that the matter appeared so great to him that he would never have believed it possible, but that if it proved true, he promised emphatically that he would never intermeddle again in any affair of the Venetians or have anything further to do with them. The ambassador replied, as he himself told me, that nothing is known of such particulars, that so far as his master was concerned he certainly did not believe that he had given the Venetian ambassador power to promise such a thing, and as for the republic, it is most prudent, and such a thing could not be expected from her wise ministers. He thought it must be one of the innumerable artifices employed by the Spaniards to advance their interests and he pointed out how different it was from their negotiations, as he knew that upon this single point they speak in four different ways, namely, what king Philip himself

\* Also found in *Senato, Secreta, Comunicazioni dal Cons. di. X.* Letter printed No. 625 at p. 433 above.

1617.

said to Lord Roos, that he had sent orders to Don Pedro not to harass His Highness of Savoy any more, merely to please England; what the French ambassador in Spain writes to the French ambassador here, that His Catholic Majesty has ordered Don Pedro to carry out the treaty of Asti; what the ambassador Bethune proposed at their instance, that the duke should send an ambassador to Paris and treat for a composition there; and finally what the Spanish ambassador here now imparts to His Majesty that the Venetians have carried the negotiations to Madrid. He concluded from this manifest variety of speaking that the Spaniards are simply trying to deceive, and that their words must not be believed. His Majesty seemed greatly relieved by these reflections and was confirmed in his belief that it could not be true. I remembered what your Excellencies wrote to me on the 2nd December with regard to your sending a courier to Spain, for my knowledge, and to set forth the truth if they spoke differently here. I thought this was the occasion foreseen by your great prudence, as I imagined that the news was altogether false, or else was not in such crude terms as the ambassador had declared. Therefore, in order to suspend His Majesty's displeasure until more certain news, I went this morning to the Secretary Winwood. I told him that the information given by the Spanish ambassador had reached me; that I knew nothing about it as yet, and that whatever happened the republic would never be unlike herself in the taking of mature resolutions, which might prove useful to herself and to her friends. That I was advised that your Excellencies at the end of November last, had sent commissions by express courier to Piero Gritti, your ambassador, a nobleman of singular prudence, to represent to His Catholic Majesty the true state of present affairs, and to ask him to direct his ministers to hold a general conference in Italy to treat of universal peace to remove all the present dissensions, and your Serenity had decided to make this representation seeing that Don Pedro disturbed all the negotiations for an accommodation made by Cardinal Lodovisio and Bethune and under the pretext of separating the peace of Savoy from the accommodation with the archduke, he brought the negotiations to a standstill, involving the continuation of the war. It may be this which gave rise to the report spread abroad, or that from the above some other affair arose afterwards, which up to now I have heard nothing of.

The secretary replied that it was true that the Spanish ambassador had communicated the news to the king, but His Majesty had not entirely believed it and he would tell him what I said at Theobalds tomorrow. He told me another matter afterwards which will be contained in the following.

London, the 2nd March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

March 2.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

664. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

In my letters of the 24th February I informed your Serenity that the Ambassador Tour had had a most secret audience of the king, without the intervention or knowledge of the ordinary ambassador,

1617.

In it he urged that His Majesty ought not to help the duke of Savoy or the princes of France, assuring him that the money employed upon either of these would be thrown away, without hope of obtaining any results. With regard to Savoy the king replied that he was bound to assist that prince, and was determined to do so, and France herself was bound to help him, so that he marvelled that she had not done so. It was true that owing to his inclination for peace he would try to obtain it, but if this failed, he certainly would not let His Highness succumb.

About the princes of France he said various things, but far removed from anything definite. He blamed with considerable freedom what has been done in that kingdom for some months past, calling it too Papistical and Spanish.

On the following Friday the same Baron Tour had another audience of the king, accompanied by M. Desmaretz (*de Mares*) the ordinary ambassador. In this he spoke quite differently about the affairs of Savoy, saying that France is interested with that prince, that she desires his preservation and will supply him with troops with which to defend himself. From this it is clearly recognised that the orders which he has to speak against His Highness cannot have been made known to all the council of France, but only to a few, since he did not wish the ordinary ambassador to know it. As a matter of fact the king showed himself much opposed to him upon both points and I clearly understand that His Majesty is more inclined to help the princes of France than the queen and I am sure he will do so in such matters as do not involve an expenditure of money. With this idea he is sending back to France as his ordinary ambassador Sir [Thomas] Edmondes, who is very partial to the princes, and who will have instructions to go to Germany to treat with the princes there upon some matter serviceable to the princes of France. Baron Tour had instructions to work so that Edmondes should not be sent back to that residency again, but as he sees that His Majesty is determined, he has not cared to do anything further for the present. Edmondes himself told me this to-day when he came to call upon me; he added that after Tour had left they will negotiate for his own mission.

At the audience of Friday the king repeated to both ambassadors his offices for the liberation of the prince of Condé, being warmed up to this by a Frenchman who was sent here secretly some days ago by the princess, Condé's mother.

His Majesty also told these same ambassadors that the duke of Savoy had asked for his advice upon the last proposal made by Bethune to refer the negotiations for a settlement to Paris. He was greatly astonished at this as he did not know why the Most Christian King desired the duke to descend to it, feeling sure that the affair would be spun out a great deal, to his great prejudice, seeing the great influence of the duke of Monteleon at court. He therefore thought that it would be better for the negotiations to proceed in Italy, when it would not be necessary to send couriers backwards and forwards, the duke of Savoy being there in person for himself, Don Pedro for Spain, Bethune for France, Lodovisio for the pope, an ambassador for the republic, and an agent for himself; that this would be substantially what he would reply to the duke,



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and he told them that in order they might inform His Most Christian Majesty. To-morrow Tour is going to audience of the king at Theobalds. I think this will be the last. He will dine with His Majesty as he did on Friday.

An extraordinary courier recently arrived from France brings word that the ambassador of the States and another diplomatic minister, I know not whether the nuncio or another, had spoken to the Queen Mother for the duke of Nevers, obtaining from her that she will no longer treat with her subjects, and whoever desires to be friendly with her will not meddle between her and them, and if any one desires pardon, she wishes him to submit freely to her pleasure. Thus all things are tending to civil war, which has already been begun, both sides making many prisoners and showing other signs of hostility.

London, the 2nd March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

March 2.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**665.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The ambassador of Savoy in his audience of His Majesty on Tuesday asked what advice he had given to the duke upon the proposal of Bethune to transfer the negotiations to France. His Majesty made the same reply as I reported in my preceding letter he made to the Baron of Tour, insisting that His Highness ought on no account to consent. On the point of assistance he said he wished to succour His Highness and within two days he would get Winwood to tell him the manner and the amount; that he had written to the Palatine, his son, and to the States upon this, although with respect to the latter he began to feel doubtful whether he could expect much owing to the dissensions in those provinces upon religious matters.

*He then turned to speak again about offensive war against the Spaniards and that if your Serenity does not decide to attack the state of Milan together with the duke of Savoy, no good will be done. The ambassador replied that His Highness lacked neither the will nor the courage to do it, but the means, and he ought to expect the last from the hands of His Majesty, and that in order to induce the republic to take such a step he thought it would be necessary to acquaint them with the nature of effective assistance which His Majesty proposed to afford. Upon this point the ambassador spoke with considerable freedom, as he has done upon previous occasions, as he wishes to see whether in this way he can obtain better results than he could after so many months of peaceful and supplicatory offices.*

*This morning Winwood recalled to the king what he had said to me at other times about this offensive war, protesting to me that otherwise everything would be thrown away. I asked him in conversation with what forces this offensive war should be made. He replied, with those of Venice and Savoy. I replied that these were not sufficient to drive out the Spaniards. He said that His Majesty was friendly. I said, even that without active assistance would not be sufficient. He added that it was a great matter that your Serenity would not make war on the Spaniards although they were making it on you. I told*

1617.

*him that hitherto the Spaniards have not made war directly upon the republic, and in any event she would defend herself energetically, but at present it was only necessary to follow a fitting conduct as all other princes should do who have interests there.*

A ship has come from Cadiz, a port of Spain, which brings word that a fleet of the Catholic king of several ships had been staying in that port for several days until all was quite ready and had left, full of troops, for the Mediterranean. It entered the strait without its destination being known. I can find nothing further than this, but whatever it be, it may serve as a complement to the advices which your Serenity may receive from elsewhere.

At last the long desired wind from the north began on the 24th February and with it all the ships of these seas have begun their voyage. The ships of Holland for your Serenity cannot be so late as not to have passed the English channel by now and they will be near the coasts of Spain. I will look out for news of their journey when ships arrive from those parts and send word to your Excellencies.

The duke of Holstein, nephew of the queen, is here, who is coming with one of the Dutch companies to serve your Excellencies. He has spoken to me a great deal of his desire to take service under your Serenity, and if the pass of the Grisons is opened he will try to bring a larger number of men than can be managed at present. He told me that the king praised his purpose, but it seems to me that the queen does not give him such a welcome as she should; the reason for this I imagine to be his alliance with the Dutch, whom she hates so much on account of the king of Denmark, so that she has never allowed their ambassador to visit her.

Your Serenity's letters of the 5th and 9th February have reached me.

Biondi has just arrived, but I cannot delay the despatch until I hear anything from him.

London, the 2nd March, 1617.

*[Italian; the part in italics deciphered.]*

March 3. **666.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

In your letters of the 9th ult. we notice your remarks about bringing troops here and your request for instructions: we direct you, without going any further in negotiations, to respond in a friendly way to those who offer themselves, expressing gratitude, and to aim simply at keeping up their good disposition without binding yourself to anything.

Your diligence in obtaining news deserves commendation, and affords us satisfaction.

Ayes 159.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

*[Italian.]*

1617.

March 3.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**667. To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.**

The duke of Savoy has been to Asti with Lesdiguières to alarm Milan and prevent Spanish help to Alba. Count Guido San Giorgio is besieging Alba, where he made a breach. The duke and Lesdiguières were to arrive there on the 25th with the horse. The town is very short of provisions; all the surrounding country is in the power of Savoy. The demolition of San Damiano and Moncuoco goes on, while prince Vittorio has destroyed Rocca di Masserano and Crevacuor on his way to Vercelli. The Spaniards have withdrawn to Treca. Don Pedro proposed to retire towards Valenza and Alessandria to collect a large force, but their troops are said to be few and poor and they make no movement.

Nothing important has happened in Friuli except that some rascals began to rob travellers by the canal of Cernignano, but they were captured, and the pass is well guarded. The Proveditore of Civald, hearing that the enemy were raiding the pass of Clabuzar, put them to flight, killing sixty and taking arms and booty.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, the Hague, Florence, Naples, Constantinople, Zurich, Padavin.

The second paragraph only to Savoy, Milan and Naples.

Ayes 146.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

March 3.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**668. To the BAILO at CONSTANTINOPLE.**

We praise you for your efforts about the carazo in which you have obtained so much success.

We enclose a copy of a letter of our secretary resident in England of 3 February last, in which you will see not only what is said about the affairs of that nation generally, but the ideas which they cherish and what they are planning to do, as well as about the silk trade, for the exclusion of the Turks. With this knowledge you can do what our service requires.

Ayes 126.

Noes 0.

Neutral 7.

[*Italian.*]

March 3.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.

Disprecci agli  
Ambasciatori  
in Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**669. The INQUISITORS OF STATE to GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England.**

*It is a long time since we gave you hopes that the 600 ducats would be paid to Sir William Smith by Muscornio; we have the matter constantly in our minds, and Muscornio has shown the utmost readiness to fulfil his obligations, from the first moment, and at once made assignments to our satisfaction. Nothing remains but to raise the money, and this presents no difficulties. It will be deposited in our hands to be straightway handed over to Smith's agent, and we hope*

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*that you will be advised of the receipt by the first ordinary. You will thus be able to give assurance to Smith, and we wish him to be informed as soon as possible so that he may know of the readiness of Muscorno in this affair, which really could not be greater.*

*[Italian; deciphered.]*

March 4. **670.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

We have directed the Proveditore of the fleet to take note of all the ships in this port, and we have recently instructed the same magistrate to detain and arrange with five of the most suitable, taking information upon the number of men and the munitions. To increase our force of Italian troops we have augmented the pay of the soldiers a crown a month. There is nothing fresh from Piedmont and Friuli except that the robbers from Gradisca have been taken at Cervignano, and Don Giovanni has burnt some houses in the marshes which they had fortified, and brought up some boats to totally destroy them.

The like to Rome, Germany, France, Spain, Constantinople, the States, Grisons, Mantua, Milan, Florence, Naples.

Ayes 135.

Noes 0.

Neutral 3.

*[Italian.]*

March 6. **671.** ZORZI GIUSTINIAN, Venetian Ambasssador in Germany, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaeci,  
Germania.  
Venetian  
Archives.

Colonel Stodder will soon be here, who commanded the Emperor's mercenary troops, to ask for promotion. If he does not obtain it he is determined to serve no longer.

Prague, the 6th March, 1617. *Copy.*

*[Italian.]*

March 7. **672.** That if the secretary of the English ambassador makes fresh representations or begins to reply in the Cabinet upon the passport for the property of the late archbishop of Spalato, he be told: the republic continues its affections and esteem for the king of England, and entertains a special regard for the ambassador, but as regards the late archbishop of Spalato we desire to know nothing. We regret that no other reply can be given to a request of this nature, as the ambassador in his prudence will understand, and we are sure that his lordship will recognise our good disposition.\*

Senato,  
Secr. ta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

Ayes 115.

Noes 0.

Neutral 17.

*[Italian.]*

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\* On January 13th the Archbishop of Spalato asked for a recommendation to the Venetian Ambassador that his clothes, and especially his books, might be permitted to be put on board an English ship and sent to England. *Calendar State Papers, Domestic, 1611-8, p. 424.*

1617.

Sig. Geronimo Trevisan, savio of Terra Ferma, proposed :

That if the Secretary of England renews his requests of the Savio of the Cabinet for the week about the passport, the Savio shall tell him he advises him not to press the request, as he does not think it possible it can be granted, as the person and matter in question cannot be mentioned without causing pain to the republic for various reasons ; and he might suggest what England or any other prince would feel in like case about a fugitive subject of ill repute, contumacious like this one about religion or anything else.

Ayes 15.

[*Italian.*]

March 7.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**673.** OTTAVIANO BON and VINCENZA GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The duke of Guise is besieging Richecourt (*Rissiecuor*) in Champagne. The princes have also taken the field with forces only slightly inferior to the royal army. There are various opinions about their intentions. They are carefully guarding their own interests and strive particularly to conciliate those of the religion. The duke of Bouillon, who has never tired in his efforts to obtain help from Germany, England and the States has received letters from Holland with promises to help him to defend Sedan if it is attacked by the Spaniards. Those of the religion have announced that they take the duke under their protection. This has greatly displeased the queen. The princess, mother of the prince of Condé, who is now at la Rochelle, never ceases in her representations for the Huguenots, and with the king of England and the united princes of Germany for the release of her son. She has received the enclosed letters from the king of Great Britain, promising to move in the prince's favour.

The same king is sending here as extraordinary ambassador the Mr. Edmondes who was his ordinary ambassador here a few months ago. He is to treat of affairs of the highest importance concerning the peace of this kingdom, the satisfaction of the discontented princes, and the liberation of Condé.

Paris, the 7th March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**674.** Letter of the KING OF GREAT BRITAIN of the 3rd January last, to the PRINCESS OF CONDE.

Madam, my cousin : We have received your letters about our cousin the prince of Condé. We are grieved at his imprisonment, both because of his connection with the royal house and because of the esteem which we have for his good inclinations. We are sure that owing to his great interest in the preservation of the state he cannot have conceived the wicked designs which are imputed to him, and we can state that we have never yet known anything incompatible with his innocence, loyalty and affection to the king our brother. We are, therefore, most anxious to see him released

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and restored to his proper station, and we will employ every possible means to procure this result.

Your most affectionate cousin,  
James R.

[Italian.]

March 9.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

675. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The news is confirmed this week from various parts that your Excellencies are carrying the negotiations for peace to the Court of Spain, with the consent of the duke of Savoy. This offends the king here for various reasons which will be better understood by your Excellencies than expressed by my pen. However, at the last audience he made the remarks to the count of Scarnafis which I reported on the 2nd inst. On the following Tuesday night Winwood begged me by letter to go to Court on the following morning, as he wished to speak to me upon matters of importance on the king's behalf. When I went, he told me that His Majesty heard from Spain and elsewhere and finally from Venice herself that the republic was negotiating for peace in Italy at Madrid, and that the negotiations were nearly concluded. If the peace took place without the king of England being informed it would be of great disservice to His Majesty, and he did not think, owing to his friendship with the republic, that he ought to be excluded from all knowledge of the affair. He therefore asked for information upon the whole matter from your Serenity, and that it should not be settled without his knowledge. He repeated the same idea two or three times with considerable emphasis, so that I believe he has it greatly to heart.*

*I replied that I would write to your Excellencies what His Majesty commanded and would communicate the answer when it arrived from Venice. Meanwhile I could only repeat what I had said six days before that I had no further knowledge of the affair except that a courier had been sent to his Catholic Majesty to ask for a general conference of the Spanish ministers in Italy, and it might be that some other affair had arisen out of this; that the republic had always used the greatest confidence with His Majesty in communicating events to him at every opportunity, and I was sure that if God brought the negotiations for peace to a prosperous issue, whether in Spain or elsewhere by his means, you would still continue to acquaint His Majesty about it. Meanwhile His Majesty might rest assured that he could not suffer the smallest disservice from anything that passed through the hands of your Excellencies, and still less so in these affairs, because the ideas of His Majesty and the republic are at one, tending towards the general peace and tranquillity, in striving for which the republic would never employ any means that would not equally serve the interests and honour of her friends as well as of herself.*

*The secretary replied that His Majesty never doubted but that the Republic would show her habitual foresight and prudence in dealing with this affair, and praises her desire for peace which corresponds with his own, but the only thing that led him to speak at present was his desire to be informed and introduced in some manner into the conclusion of the peace. I replied that I would write to your Excellencies and await the reply.*

1617.

*Biondi has returned to Piedmont. He brings no letter for His Majesty except a complimentary one for the leave given to the count of Scarnafigi, who will take leave of the king to-day to return to Piedmont immediately. Biondi will remain here without a title to serve His Highness in whatever occurs. He brings a verbal reply from the duke to the offers made by the king of England to interpose with the Catholic king for an accommodation, which runs substantially, that His Highness will always be ready to receive peace from whatever quarter it may come, so that it make provision for his security and honour, but acquaints His Majesty that during this talk about peace he found himself involved in a dangerous war, under the promise of the two crowns.*

*The count of Scarnafigi at his last audience to-day, is to tell the king by the duke's order that the Catholic king himself and the duke of Lerma have opened a way for negotiation with the Venetian ambassador for a general peace. His Highness has been urged to this by the republic and has decided to notify your Serenity of the conditions which he will accept, that your Excellencies may have authority to treat for him, and for the conclusion of the affair he has sent a fresh courier to Spain. He imparts all this to His Majesty as a sign of his continued devotion and because of the part which he took in the treaty of Asti, feeling sure that he will welcome this both because he has always counselled peace and also because the chief condition to be inserted will be the carrying out of the treaty of Asti, made by his authority. I doubt whether the king will be entirely appeased by this office, because he will perceive that the duke tells him of it after he had decided to give the republic authority to negotiate, that he asks for no advice and does not even give particulars of the conditions, while at the very time that he is giving this information he is removing the Ambassador Scarnafigi from the court without naming anyone in his place. More than anything else I believe that the sending of a fresh courier to Spain will cause offence, to arrange a treaty without his knowing anything about it. As time does not permit me to obtain any particulars of the conversation with the ambassador, I hope to send all particulars next week.*

*The same office which the count of Scarnafigi is to perform at this court is also to be done, mutatis mutandis by the count of Moreta at Paris with Their Majesties, as identical instructions have been sent to both ambassadors.*

The king is greatly incensed because a Scot of the house of Stuart has been publicly put to death at Paris. He was collecting troops for the Princes.\* This accident has stirred him the more to hasten the expedition of Edmondes to Germany and France, affairs in the latter country having come to an open rupture, all doing their worst and the king having already taken the field.

Lord Roos is shortly expected in England on his return from Spain. In passing through France on his return he wrote to the king from Paris that if His Majesty would give him any commands to treat with the Most Christian, as there was no other ambassador at the Court at that time, he would remain to await his instructions.

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\* Un ancien garde du corps écossais fut décapité devant la Louvre. *Bazin Hist. de Louis XIII.* i. p. 246.

1617.

The king wrote telling him to leave Paris immediately and continue his journey without meddling with what did not concern him. I am told that His Majesty is highly dissatisfied with the entire embassy of that nobleman.

Baron Tours has taken leave of the king and is now saying his farewells at Court, to leave at the earliest opportunity.

A Spanish caravel has recently taken refuge at the port of Plymouth after some unpleasant experiences, its consort having perished at sea. Those on board say that they were driven there by the winds, but it is thought that they may have come to spy upon the ships for the Dutch troops since they have no merchandise on board and it is not usual for their ships to appear in that part of the sea.

A fortnight to-morrow His Majesty leaves for Scotland, as he would not change his mind for any considerations whatsoever. To obtain the money he has raised loans, sold lands and anticipated the customs. The expenses will amount to the extraordinary sum of half a million. He will stay two months in Scotland and will be absent from London six months in all. Winwood told me that he will remain here and that I may address myself to him upon all my affairs, and they will be as well and as speedily disposed of as if the king himself were in the city.

London, the 9th March, 1617.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

March 10.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

676. To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

The duke of Savoy with M. Lesdiguières proceeded to Alba, which surrendered on the 6th. This was due to failure of provisions. The bulk of the forces of the duke and prince will proceed to the frontiers of the Astegliano, and the Spaniards will do the same.

M. de Crichton has proceeded from Piedmont to Dauphiné to assist the governor in the absence of M. Lesdiguières.

In Friuli our general decided to erect a small fort called Bruma under the fire of Gradisca and almost at its gates. It was built in a night and a day without any molestation from the enemy.

Our troops in Istria have taken and sacked the land of Treviso, a haunt of robbers, of considerable wealth, from which they took about 30,000 ducats of booty.

We hear from Naples that on the 4th inst. the Viceroy sent out nine galleys for the Gulf of Venice, to take ships and do all the harm they could to the republic. We have therefore decided to at once increase our naval provisions. This is for information.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, France, Spain, the Hague, Savoy, Milan, Mantua, Florence, Naples, the Grisons, the Swiss.

Ayes 149.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]



1617.

March 11.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**677.** CHRISTOFFORO SURIANO, Venetian Secretary to the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Count John Ernest of Nassau will leave to-morrow. He told me that he wished to get away from the French ambassador, who more than once had urged him to give up the undertaking. I have assured him that his men will receive the best treatment. The troops are being favoured by good winds, and should by now have passed the Strait, indeed two days ago news reached Rotterdam that they had been seen in the seas of Spain.

I enclose a receipt for what I have spent in this connection; and a receipt given me by the count. I also enclose a list of the captains of the companies.

The Hague, the 11th March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**678.** Receipt by John Ernest, count of Nassau Catzenelboges, from Christofforo Surian, resident of Venice with the States General of the United Provinces, of 7,200 florins for the pay of his troops going to the service of the republic.

The Hague, the 10th March, 1617.

[*French. Holograph.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**679.** Names and condition of the colonels and captains of the 3,200 foot levied by Count John Ernest of Nassau.

Count John Ernest of Nassau, general of the troops of the Low Countries.

John Vere (*Weer*), lieutenant-general; an Englishman, nephew of the late general Francis Vere (*Weer*). He has been thirteen years a captain in the Low Countries. He is 34 years of age, a good soldier, and popular with his countrymen.

M. Gulena, a Frenchman.

The duke of Holstein, nephew of the king of Denmark and the queen of England. Aged 22.

Count William of Nassau, brother of Count John Ernest.

Sieur de Clertiny, a Dutchman, brother of the Sieur de Brederode.

Mr. Henry Woodowes (*Woodhousen*), an Englishman, about 40 years of age; has been captain in the Low Countries for 16 years and more, of a company of his nation, a valiant and experienced man.

David Morlot, a German.

Peter Melander, a German.

Lewis Brederode, a Dutchman.

M. Monbon, a Frenchman.

Names of the captains of the second regiment.

M. de Rocalaura, a Frenchman.

Captain Heven Koop, a Dutchman, took part in the naval fight of Gibraltar.

M. Lavel, a Dane.

Leonard Weesterbeeck, a Dutchman.

M. Famà, a Dutchman.

M. Metoin, a Frenchman.

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Capt. Seiton, a Scot, lieutenant of a company of his brother.  
 Sieur de Wandernoob, a Dutchman.  
 Captain Haan, a German.  
 Sieur Paigh, a Walloon.\*

[Italian.]

March 11.

Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Dispaoci.  
 Signori Stati  
 Venetian  
 Archives.

**680.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The naval preparations of the king of Denmark are causing some pre-occupation here. It is reported that he intends to besiege Danzig or some other coast town. This might prejudice the Dutch trade with Danzig, Muscovy and other parts of those seas.

The Hague, the 11th March, 1617.

[Italian.]

March 18.

Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Dispaoci,  
 Costant.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.

**681.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The Grand Vizier recently informed all the ambassadors that the carazo had been removed from the subjects of our four nations. I found that the order was directed to the Cadi of Galata without any periphrasis and it looked as if the carazo had been removed by favour and not owing to the promise contained in the capitulations. That might benefit us while this Pasha remained at Constantinople, but owing to the mutability of the government and the frequent changes of ministers and the prejudice that this order would cause to our capitulations, I gave notice that the order did not satisfy me and it would be better to change it into an Imperial decree which I could use not only here but anywhere in the dominions of the Grand Turk. The Pasha agreed, and so the matter has turned out fortunately.*

*I did not think it necessary to confer with the ambassadors upon this affair, as I do not know how to walk with the legs of others, as the saying goes, and I know by experience that working together in affairs increases the difficulties and nothing is ever finished. However they will enjoy this service from me, that as I was the first to try and settle about this order, they will find the way smooth and easy to bring their affairs into better train than they now are. I have not as yet said anything to them about it, and they have not received word of it from anywhere.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 18th March, 1617.

[Italian ; deciphered.]

Enclosed in  
 the preceding  
 Despatch.

**682.** Translation of the Imperial decree removing the charge of the carazo which was imposed in the past upon the Venetian subjects and merchants and the Dragomans. Dated at Constantinople

\* "We hear by privat letters from the camp before Gradisca that the loss of our men was greater then is published in theyr assault and retreat at Rubia ; there being two Captaines slain ; one Setton a Scottish man and one Pay a Wallon, with betwixt 30 and 40 of theyre men. Captain Woodowes, an English man, sergeant major to Coronel Roquelore, acquitted himself well in that service without hurt." Carleton to Chamberlain, 22 June, 1617 o.s. *State Papers. Foreign. Holland.*

1617.

on the first of the moon of Rabeaulhacchir, the year 1026, that is on the 10th March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

March 18. **683.** ZORZI GIUSTINIAN, Venetian Ambassador in Germany, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Germania.  
Venetian  
Archives.

Marrada and Stodder of the archduke's army are both here. The first is arranging for new levies of cavalry. Stodder is petitioning the Emperor for promotion, protesting that if he does not obtain it he will serve no longer. As he and his troops are the best in the camp, the archduke is striving so that he may have satisfaction, and it is thought that he will obtain it.

Prague, the 18th March, 1617. *Copy.*

[*Italian.*]

March 14. **684.** OTTAVIANO BON and VINCENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

They are much struck here at seeing that the imprisonment of Condé has created a bad impression everywhere, as it is considered unreasonable and without any grounds of crime to go upon. The king of Great Britain, the Princes of Germany and others besides have expressed this idea, and it is also the general opinion of the people. To justify their decision of keeping the prince in confinement they two days ago sent M. de Baranton, master of requests, to the Bastille to interrogate the prince upon the truth of his intrigues and machinations, pretending that if he made a free confession they would set him at liberty. When he heard this, whether by too much credulity in their promises or in desperation or for other causes, he disclosed not only things which might possibly have some show of truth, but other matters which, it is said, he had never dreamed of. This has been published as a justification of the government, although it is not expected to profit them much owing to their wrongful means of obtaining the confession.

Paris, the 14th March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

March 14. **685.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Resident at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

I have seen the Cardinal Sforza. Among other things he said to me: I am sure the Viceroy wrote several times to Spain in favour of peace, but on seeing how matters were going and the prejudice caused to His Majesty by your help to Savoy, he also wished to have a share. I do not think his galleys are intended to commit acts of hostility unless it comes to open war, which I greatly fear it will. The pope would never accept the treaty of Asti, because you insisted upon the inclusion of the King of England, who is so great an enemy of the Church and of all the rest of us; neither can His Holiness agree to this help from heretics to the

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duke. The Spaniards have also incited the pope and the rest of us because the Archbishop of Spalatro has recently torn himself from Venice and gone to England to foment heresies against the Church and us, and the Signory might easily have prevented this.

I replied that the archbishop was an ecclesiastic and subject to another jurisdiction, but it was not reasonable to accuse the republic because some rascal escaped from Venice to England or elsewhere. While I was at Constantinople I had seen many renegade Neapolitans, Milanese and even Romans, but it had never so much as occurred to me that their rascality could be a slur on those most excellent cities. The Cardinal replied: What you say is true, but you must know that the archbishop was several times warned by the nuncio in Venice, as he himself states in his published writings, and the Signory might have provided a remedy.

I enclose a letter of the consul of Otranto which reached me to-day.

Naples, the 14th March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**686.** GASPARO BASALA, Venetian Consul at Otranto, to  
GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Secretary at Naples.

All the ships which were detained have been released; besides our own there were ten ships of Marseilles and three English bertonas.

Otranto, the 7th March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

March 14.  
Senato,  
Secreta,  
Dispacci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**687.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Secretary at Naples, to the  
DOGE and SENATE.

Encloses letter from his correspondent Vespa at Messina.

Naples, the 14th March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**688.** BERNARDINO VESPA to GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Secretary at Naples.

Hopes that by this time Francisco Rocheta has arrived with full information about the difficulty of obtaining suitable men for the service of the republic.

The Jesuit father Petracci in his sermon in asking them to pray for Christians and the king of Spain, stated that the king was assailed not only by Turks and heretics but that the Venetians also, being without the fear of God, fetched thirty English and Lutheran ships to help them and shed Christian blood.

There are an incredible number of bertonas about Tunis and Barbary, and they make captures every day. These last months they have taken seventy ships, without counting frigates and barques.

Messina, the 6th March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

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March 16. **689.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

Among the various particulars contained in our letters of news to serve for information you will see the report of the galleys sent out by the Viceroy of Naples, which are said to be for the Gulf, to damage us, and our provisions to meet this. We send you a copy of what we propose to lay before the ambassador of His Majesty, and we direct you to ask for an audience and execute the same office as a sign of our continued esteem, sending us the reply you receive.

With regard to the report put about by ill-affected persons that Count William of Nassau, who is here, has been offended at his treatment, a thing quite contrary to the truth, we send you a copy of the exposition made by Sig. Piero Loredan to us, so that you may clearly perceive the truth, and use it when necessary. We may add that he proceeded recently to the camp in Friuli, where his reception and treatment gave him complete satisfaction.

Ayes 145.

Noes 4.

Neutral 3.

[Italian.]

March 16. **690.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

The secretary of His Majesty's ambassador resident here has asked us for a passport for the property of the archbishop of Spalato. We have tactfully shown him the necessity for the refusal of his request. You will see all from the enclosed copies of the exposition and office. This is for information without broaching the matter to anyone. If you chance to be spoken to you will keep to the terms adopted by us.

That the like be sent to the ambassador at Rome for his information, and if pressed he may speak of the devotion of the republic to religion and the service of God.

Ayes 109.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[Italian.]

March 17. **691.** The INQUISITORS OF STATE to GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England.

Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci agli,  
Ambasciatori  
in Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

When we had received all the money of the 600 ducats lent by Sir William Smith to Muscorno we at once sent for Mr. Henry Parvis, an English merchant, who was commissioned to receive it, and we hoped to finish the business then and there, but he asked for time to translate his commission from the English, and to recover the paper for the loan, which is in the hands of the ambassador of Great Britain, as he was very busy. He will then come to receive the money, and will write that the delay is due to him alone.

We have also to tell you for information that we heard from Parvis that when Smith's commission reached him, he presented it to the ambassador, who seemed rather annoyed with Sir William,

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who had already given him Muscorno's bond, which he had presented several months ago, when he made representations upon the matter and had recently sent his secretary to take it back and surrender it in due course ; but Parvis had mollified him, and for the better service of Sir William, the matter is to be referred to the ambassador, through whom he will obtain complete satisfaction.

[*Italian.*]

March 17.

Senato,  
Secreta.

Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**692.** That the English ambassador be summoned to the Cabinet and the following be read to him :

Owing to our confidence with His Majesty we wish to communicate as usual what is taking place in this province. We have directed our Secretary Lionello to inform His Majesty of the new and extraordinary resolutions of the Viceroy of Naples who is sending out galleys, report saying that they are to proceed to the Gulf. This has led us to increase our naval preparations by arming four great galleys, besides those at sea, and seven ships of high board, and we proposed to increase our fleet of thirty light galleys as we are determined to resist such extravagant designs, quite unjustifiable, as the republic has always been ready to listen to reasonable proposals for peace. We beg your Excellency to represent the same things to His Majesty, who will, we are sure, hear them with feelings worthy of his kindly nature, and if ideas and attempts of this nature are carried further he will doubtless show the spirit which we cherish of his affection for us and proceed to take steps worthy of his greatness.

With regard to the two English soldiers condemned to the galleys, although their fault deserved a far greater punishment than was inflicted, so that it was difficult to alter the execution of the sentence, yet at the instance of your Excellency we have decided to accede to your last request that they may be released from the chain, and we have sent them to serve upon the great galleys as men of the sword with the usual pay received by the other soldiers, for your special gratification.

Ayes 145.

Noes 4.

Neutral 3.

On the same day in the Cabinet,

Ayes 19.

Noes 0.

Neutral 3.

[*Italian.*]

March 17.

Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**693.** The deliberation of the Senate of yesterday was read to the Ambassador of England, he said : I have remained long useless in my house, not knowing what to do. I now return thanks for the favour to the two Englishmen. Works of mercy are their own reward ; I did not wish for their complete liberation but that they should exchange rowing for fighting and the oar for the sword, as their fault excluded the hope of release. I have

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another thing to say. I have had a young man in my house, reared in my service from his earliest years. As he showed a liking for the sword, I encouraged him and put him as ensign with a French captain, equipping him at my own expense, as I thought it disgraceful that I should not serve your Serenity in these times at least with one man.

I pass to matters of more importance, and, indeed, if I had not been summoned, I should have asked for an audience. I have some recent letters from the Count Palatine, who sends to me every week. I also have a trusty relative at that court, the son of a sister, who was sent by the king to be secretary to Madame Elizabeth, and is his agent for the affairs of Germany.\* That prince has received letters from the States discovering the best disposition towards the common service. They are not without suspicions of their adversaries, and advise the Palatine to keep his eyes open (*di aprir ben gl'occhi*). At the end of the month there is to be a general gathering of the princes of Germany to treat of these things. Your Serenity may make known your pleasure then, and the Palatine will be quite ready to fulfil it and to make a closer union with the republic. There are two things which may turn out prejudicial to the republic, one the report that the treaty for peace has been referred to Spain as if the affair was to be submitted to the judgment of that king, this is a point which may prejudice the princes; the other I hear from the Ambassador Carleton, my predecessor, now at the Hague, that the count of Levestein, who offered to lead troops here, had met with some difficulty, as there was a lack of soldiers, as the veterans left for this service who were wanted at home. But the most important point is that a public minister, recently arrived at the Hague, declares that the pass of the Grisons is open, thanks to the intercession of France, and this has prejudiced the plan of coming by sea. If your Serenity will make some approach to the princes, I will forward it. Carleton also writes to me that Sig. Suriano has had instructions to raise new levies, and recommends to me a gentleman named Tomaso Oglachi,† a worthy man, so much so that I do not know where I should find his equal. Already thirty years ago he was present at important occasions, at the taking of St. Jago and Cartagena. He went to found the first colony in Virginia and was present at the acquisition of the other islands added to the king's dominions. I say this to show you his condition. I may say that here your Serenity excites some jealousy among us, of the Flemish nation. You make use of Flemish vessels, and wisely because those here are good, and you make use of troops from those parts. Our English also have not forgotten the practice of arms, and even the States, when they

\* Albert Morton. Winwood writes to Carleton on 7 October, 1616: This bearer, Mr. Albert Morton, is so well known to you that I should wrong both you and myself to recommend him unto you. This I will only say, that out of devotion to do service to my lady Elizabeth, he doth quit all other hopes, and intendeth to serve her in place of secretary. *Letters from and to Sir Dudley Carleton*, page 68.

† This must clearly be Sir Thomas Gates, mentioned in Surian's despatches of the 7th and 14th January, Nos. 587, 595, 596, at pages 404 and 408 above. The Secretary of the Collegio probably took down what he thought he heard Wotton say. He not unfrequently distorts English names beyond all recognition.

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need volunteers, come to us, because England and Scotland are the fountain from which they draw to maintain their warfare. The levies of your Serenity are made in the country which has recourse to us when it has need.

The feasts are at hand, I wish your Serenity every internal and external good. The first good is peace, the second glorious war.

The doge replied: We immediately assembled ready to gratify your desire in the matter of the two condemned Englishmen, as we are anxious to satisfy you, knowing your affection for the republic. We will consider the other questions raised in your speech and your Excellency may rest assured of the affection which we bear you.

With this the ambassador made a reverence and departed.

[*Italian.*]

March 17. 694. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in  
 Senato.  
 Secreta.  
 Dispacci,  
 Inghilterra.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.

England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

A week to-day your Serenity's letters of the 17th February were brought to me, with instructions to inform His Majesty confidentially of what the Catholic king said to the Ambassador Gritti, if I was sure that the count of Scarnafigi had told him the same thing. Accordingly I asked for audience of His Majesty on the following day, as I knew that the count of Scarnafigi had spoken to the king about it the day before, but with rather more reserve than he told me he would, because although he was advised by the Secretary Crotti from Piedmont that he had written out His Highness's permission to allow the republic to treat, and had orders to report it, as I wrote on the 9th, yet from fear that the king might be too much incensed with the duke of Savoy if the affair were set before him all at once, he concealed this part and only spoke of the offices of the ambassador Gritti and of the duke of Lerma's reply to him and the opening made for an accommodation. He told me afterwards that His Majesty and his ministers seemed much offended at such steps being taken without their participation. I saw the Secretary Winwood twice casually before I had audience of the king. He spoke to me about this affair but made me see that he felt much more keenly about it than he showed by his open speech, and he and the others believe that the negotiations are more advanced than the ambassador of Savoy and I tell them. Thus yesterday, in His Majesty's ante-chamber, he told me that they heard from France that peace is entirely concluded and from Venice that the duke has sent powers to your Serenity to treat. I assured him, what is actually the truth, that I know no more than I have told him, and I have confined myself to these generalities, as your Excellencies command me. Thus yesterday when I went to the audience I told the king that in reply to the considerations advanced by the Ambassador Gritti in Spain that the troubles of Italy cannot properly be brought to an end without a general accommodation, the Catholic king answered through the duke of Lerma that he also recognised the necessity of this and would like the negotiations to take place at his Court, offering to obtain the authorisation of the emperor and the archduke so that if the republic would obtain the like from the duke of Savoy, the negotiations might be taken in hand; that your Serenity,



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to prove your devotion to peace, had sent to the Ambassador Gritti the necessary instructions so that you could not be charged with any lack of good-will on your side, and I expressed the other ideas contained in the letters.

The king replied that he had always been desirous of peace and worked for it everywhere, notably in Italy by the treaty of Asti, so that obviously the news of peace would always be gratifying to him, but he thought it most strange that for a month past he had heard from Spain and elsewhere that the republic was negotiating with the Catholic king at Madrid for a general accommodation, but he had never heard a word of it from you, such as is the usual practice between such good friends as your Excellencies have always been. He had now heard that the duke of Savoy had given your Serenity authority to negotiate at Madrid, and he wished me to tell him all about this affair, as he marvelled greatly at the count of Scarnafigi, who had concealed as much from him as he could and up to the audience before last had tried to persuade him that the negotiations were not real but were reported by the Spaniards as one of their usual tricks, pointing out that they negotiate at the same time in various places and in divers ways, whereby they deceive everyone.

I replied that up to the present I knew no more than I had told him in the name of your Serenity as a sign of confidence, and that His Majesty ought not to marvel if he had received news from Spain of the affair a month beforehand, because the time and the situation of the countries involved this, because news brought from Spain must necessarily be known in England a month before it could be sent from Spain to Venice and thence to England. As the negotiations had been opened by the Catholic king upon the offices of the Ambassador Gritti, your Serenity could not inform His Majesty about them earlier.

The king retorted that the Ambassador Gritti had opened the way to negotiations by his offices and not the Catholic king. I replied that Gritti's offices were general considerations and that the Catholic king had gone further by entering into details. The king said that he wished your Excellencies had communicated these general offices to him at the time that you instructed the ambassador to make them. I replied that the republic keeps many ministers with the various powers of Europe, and if you communicated to His Majesty all the offices, including the ordinary ones, performed by them, it might prove too wearisome to him.

In reply to what he said to me about the count of Scarnafigi, I thought it well to excuse him in excusing myself, and to speak in the common interests. Accordingly I said that if the count, a fortnight ago, did not believe in the truth of the rumours about the treaty, but that it was probably a Spanish trick, I felt sure that he knew nothing at that time, because I did not know it myself, as neither of us had then received the news from Italy, and the arguments which he advanced about the various negotiations of the Spaniards were not to be utterly despised. Moreover, at the present moment, although negotiations for peace are proceeding, it will not do to confide in this and abandon all thoughts of our safety, the more so because we understand that the Spaniards are making very great

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preparations both by sea and land. At Naples they are levying 12,000 foot and some horse; in Flanders 6,000 Walloons and 1,000 horse; in Germany they have issued orders for new levies; at Naples there is a fleet of twelve galleons well furnished; fourteen have left the port of Cadiz, well provided. The king seemed to know of all these preparations and to attach great importance to them. He said that it really would be well not to rely too much upon peace, but that everyone should dread some disaster. With this, after saying something about the voyage of the Dutch troops, he dismissed me. So far as I could judge from outward signs he was quite satisfied with the reasons I had given, possibly more than I had expected beforehand.

The ambassador of Savoy has taken leave of the king and the ministers. He takes with him a verbal promise upon the subject of assistance, that if peace be not obtained His Majesty will send armed vessels to help His Highness.

Baron Tour has left. He received a present of 3,000 ounces of silver gilt plate.

Winwood told me recently that His Majesty would do something for the Princes of France if he knew how their affairs stood, so that he cannot but wonder greatly that they do not send someone to negotiate. However, the Ambassador Edmondes will be sent soon, and I hope to be able to inform your Excellencies of the instructions given to him.

Three days ago I received two other letters of your Serenity with the current news and two extracts from letters of the Residents Spinelli and Dolce. As regards Count William of Nassau I will use the information if I hear anything said, to make known generally how welcome he is to your Excellencies and how well treated.

London, the 17th March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

March 17. **695.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

When after the unhappy fate of the Ambassador Barbarigo it pleased your Excellencies to direct me to remain at this Court, I tried to render the charge lighter to myself by the hope of a speedy end. But I find my confidence was misplaced and although it is nearly a year since that command, I am more uncertain than ever of regaining my freedom from this service, which is full of distress for me, not only for various reasons on which I must be silent at present, but because of the heavy cost. Although I have procured some moderation yet the Court of England is excessively expensive, and the cost of everything is so great that it is certainly unexampled elsewhere in Europe. Moreover as ambassadors have usually resided here for your Serenity with worthy grandeur becoming the prince they serve, many officials of the Court and others, who used to receive some profit from their liberality, have not been willing to take into account to their own prejudice the notable difference between such ambassadors and myself, so that in order not to prejudice the service of your Excellencies I have been obliged to satisfy them out of my own pocket. The beginning of this year in

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particular has been especially costly and now that the king is going to Scotland there will be new pretexts for expenditure in order to obtain news of what is taking place daily so far away. All these things tell very severely upon my modest fortune and I beg your Excellencies to afford me some relief to console me.

London, the 17th March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

March 18.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

696. That the English ambassador be summoned to the Cabinet and the following read to him :

From what your Excellency has recently said we again recognise your excellent disposition towards our republic and we thank you for your friendly offices, which we take as further argument of your feeling, and for sending the young man of your house to serve in the camp. With regard to submitting the negotiations for peace to the arbitrament of the king of Spain, your prudence can easily see whence these reports come, as you know the determination of the republic to defend herself but to listen to all reasonable proposals for peace. In Spain they pointed out the difficulties placed by their ministers in the way of a general conference, recognised as the only means of settling the disputes, so that king proposed to carry on the negotiations at that Court. We showed our good disposition, as we had already done in France and elsewhere, by instructing our ambassador at that Court to negotiate upon this, if the other side would meet him, and nothing definite can as yet be stated. We wish, however, that the true state of affairs may be known, especially by the Prince Palatine, as a sign of our esteem for him and the other princes of Germany, with whom we shall always be glad to have a good understanding.

The Secretary Surian at the Hague is informed about the difficulties put in the way of the pass of the Grisons, which are greater than ever, but as the affair is important and as the special news of your Excellency is worthy of deep consideration, we will acquaint him more particularly with everything that happens so that he may take any necessary steps.

We thank you for the confidence you have shown us and for the offer of Sig. Thomas Oglachi,\* of which Surian also writes to us, and when new levies are to be raised we shall certainly consider his qualifications and the testimony which your Excellency has rendered. We maintain the same opinion of men and help from England that we have always entertained of that valorous nation, and also of the excellent disposition of His Majesty, to whom we are sure your Excellency will represent this last office of ours in a manner worthy of the good-will which we know so well.

Ayes 186.

Noes 2.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

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\* Sir Thomas Gates. See note to No. 698 at page 467 above.

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March 18. **697.** To the AMBASSADOR with HIS HIGHNESS OF SAVOY.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

From Spain we hear of the departure of the English ambassador without receiving satisfaction upon the marriage or for free traffic with the Indies. Moreover he had an altercation with the duke of Lerma about His Highness, for when the ambassador declared that his king would be bound to help Savoy if the treaty of Asti were not observed, Lerma replied that if His Majesty decided to keep a fleet in the Strait of Gibraltar, the king could not send help. This provoked the ambassador to retort that if his king wishes, he has so powerful a fleet that it will not be so easy a matter to stop him. It is well that His Highness should know this.

Ayes 138.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

March 18. **698.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

I am anxiously awaiting news as to whether the ships have passed the Strait.

The Hague, the 18th March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

March 20. **699.** AGOSTINO DOLCI, Venetian Secretary with the Swiss, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Svizzeri.  
Venetian  
Archives.

Encloses letters received from Berne upon the negotiations of Gaballeone.

Zurich, the 20th March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**700.** F. ERLAC to AGOSTINO DOLCI.

The ambassador of Savoy demands almost impossible things ; he asks that the chief magistrate should find 4,000 soldiers and pay them for six months ; he further asks for 200,000 crowns to continue the war against the Spaniards. He received a prompt reply, that our magistrate never sent out soldiers to another prince at his own expense. We hope that the English ambassador will be able to moderate all these things. I will send word what takes place.

3rd March, 1617.

[*Latin.*]

March 22. **701.** The deliberation of the 18th inst. was read to the ambassador of England ; he said :

Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

The information read to me is both necessary and opportune. I will not fail to make known the truth, especially at the court of the Palatine, as I am instructed by that prince to inform him of the true state of affairs in time for the assembly at the end of the

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month. I hope that your Serenity will soon be free from anxiety or will have a good band of brave men. If new levies of volunteers are required they may be found in the realms of His Majesty. No better person for this service can be found than the one of whom I spoke. Before I leave I wish to speak of one thing. It is possible that something may come to my knowledge which it would be well to make known to your Serenity. My coming here is always seen by many. Where a third person and another prince is concerned it is not possible to speak quite freely, and even the sending of the secretary is observed. I therefore think it would be well for my secretary to speak to someone deputed by your Serenity, so that he might listen without being noticed and without commotion.

The doge replied: It is not usual to alter the established proceedings of the republic. This is the gate where all things are heard and your Excellency will be always welcome here. But their Lordships will consider the matter.

The ambassador said: There are some delicate matters, touching perhaps a prince. This has moved me to speak, not a desire to interrupt the ordinary usages. The reply is the same as the one I received when at my first coming I requested that someone might be deputed from your Lordships to confer with me upon certain things which cannot be spoken quite freely. I did not intend to change the gate, but to arrive by the way that I have suggested, that the Secretary Gregorio should speak to one deputed by your Serenity. Something has happened during these past days which has made me think of this remedy. The Secretary Gregorio is a subject of your Serenity, and is high in the king's favour, owing to the accounts sent of him by me and my predecessors, who have employed him. Thus His Majesty last week sent him a patent confirming him in the service, and he may be believed in all matters which I commit to him, as if he were myself.

The doge replied that the secretary and all who came on the ambassador's behalf would be readily admitted and heard.

The ambassador said: This matter weighs upon me so that I cannot leave without saying it, especially as it concerns my interests also. A German of the Low Countries, a man of the States, an engineer of position who is very well informed, has come here to offer himself to your Serenity. He has some memoranda, notably of two pieces of artillery. He wished to make three of the same kind. He imparted these secrets to the States, who profited greatly by them. His work is very valuable because he imparts a fineness to the metal so that it unites more easily. He had a kind of petard for galleys which the Lords of the Arsenal would not accept, perhaps because they were otherwise occupied. He contrived such a petard that if thrown into a ship would utterly destroy it. There is someone here who bears no good-will to your Serenity, there is some minister of a prince, perhaps more than one, who has approached this man through a watchmaker who was in my house. They have arranged to take him to serve the Archduke Ferdinand, not direct, but by sending him to the Archduke Maximilian at Innsbruck, whence he can be taken to Gratz. This affair touches me, especially as it was arranged by one who was in my house. I have complained about it, and gave a lecture to him, telling him that he did ill and it

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would not please the States. I should have preferred to make this known by other means, but I could not keep silence. The doge thanked him and said that the matter should be duly considered. The ambassador then took leave and departed.

[*Italian.*]

March 25. **702.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

Nothing notable has happened in Friuli. The Proveditore of Cavalry in Istria has made a raid and learned from prisoners that after Easter they expect help from Carlestot under the command of Tersat. The archducal forces burned Scuffia, but were repulsed from Riscano with loss.

The duke of Savoy has returned to Asti. As his stratagem to recover S. Germano did not succeed he is closely besieging it, although at Milan they say it has been relieved by smugglers, so that the garrison can hold out for some days. There have been skirmishes between the Savoyards and Spaniards in relieving la Rochetta, with equal loss.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, Spain, France, Milan, Naples, Florence, the Hague, Germany, Zurich, Constantinople.

Ayes 114.

Noes 2.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

March 25. **703.** SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador at Rome, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

Yesterday the pope said to me: We hear that Dr. Sertorio at Padua is creating doctors to the sound of trumpets and drums; we are surprised at this, especially after what has been said; I replied that nothing new had been introduced in this matter.

This morning I again saw His Holiness. He said: We are advised that the Dutch who are coming to serve the republic are bringing with them the Psalms printed in Italian with marginal comments infused with the doctrines of Calvin. We beg the republic to prevent these books from being distributed. I promised to write about it.

The pope then referred to the archbishop of Spalatro, saying that he heard that he was not so high in the esteem of the king of England as was supposed. I thought it opportune to add, as the pope seemed in a good humour, that according to my information he was very slightly esteemed, in fact almost despised. In spite of your caution about referring to the request of the English ambassador, I thought this a favourable moment to tell His Holiness of the refusal given to the ambassador by you upon his request in the archbishop's favour. I cannot express what a change came over the pope's countenance at this, as from being melancholy at first he became quite joyous. He said, Blessed be the Signory, that is a sorry rascal; your Excellency has greatly comforted us by what you have said, and by your report that he is all but despised in England.

Rome, the 25th March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

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 March 25. **704.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the  
 Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Dispacci,  
 Savoia.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.  
 DOGE and SENATE.  
*The duke sent for me on the 21st inst., and I found him in a small chamber with the prince, the count of Verua, the General San Georgio and the Secretary Crotti. The duke said that he had received bad news, the duke of Nemours had suddenly left Savoy and gone to a place outside Paris, where he was conferring with Montelione, the Spanish ambassador. He also had news from Berne, whither the agent of England and Gabaleone had betaken themselves, that the people there would not give any money whatever, saying that they had never done so to any prince, and if they did they would excite the hatred of some cantons as if they had done something against the laws and against religion itself.*  
*His Highness is much upset that the difficulties of obtaining troops should increase at the time when his dominions are in the greatest difficulties.*  
*I told His Highness what had passed between the duke of Lerma and the English ambassador at that Court, and gave him some other news.*  
 Asti, the 25th March, 1617.  
 [Italian; deciphered.]
- March 28. **705.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.  
 Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Dispacci,  
 Signori Stati.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.  
 Thomas Stodder (Studler) has informed Pasini of his intention to leave this Easter. I am awaiting further news.  
 The Hague, the 28th March, 1617.  
 [Italian.]
- March 28. **706.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Secretary at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.  
 Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Dispacci,  
 Napoli.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.  
*Of those who communicate with the Viceroy from Constantinople, one is a Pasha and another a renegade of the seraglio, possibly Mehemet the Neapolitan. But what grieves me most is that the letters and advices come principally from the houses of the ambassadors of England and France, and I know that they are in constant communication with the French one; the same news reaches me from Zante.*  
 Naples, the 28th March, 1617.  
 [Italian; the part in italics deciphered.]
- March 29. **707.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.  
 Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Dispacci,  
 Costantinopoli.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.  
*With regard to the affair of the archenda the English merchant has never said anything further to me. It is my opinion that he has some idea of approaching the new Vizier to recover from the Caimecan the money which was wrongfully taken from him, but in these matters it is easier to wish than to succeed. If this English merchant says anything more to me about the promise which I made to him, I will procrastinate until I have the information from the Proveditore of Zante,*

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*which your Serenity promised to send to me with the last despatch, but which I have not yet received, to rule my action by it as I am instructed.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 29th March, 1617.

[Italian ; deciphered.]

March 29.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Constant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**708.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*I have been more than once with the ambassadors of France, England and Flanders, to discuss the question of making a presentation to the Grand Vizier. We agreed that the Grand Vizier had freed us from the carazo in spite of many obstacles ; that it was a question which concerned the honour of princes and others, and therefore the service ought to be recognized, the more so because he had never asked for any recognition of his services, though it is well known that this is a country where the ministers, and especially the chief ones, always expect some reward if they act in any important affair for our interests. We therefore decided firstly to give, all four of us, forty robes. I inclined to this because it did not introduce ready money, but I thought it a small present because it did not amount to 250 sequins each, and it would not prove very pleasing to the Pasha because the present could not be made without great display, and so give his enemies a handle against him, and it would be better to make a purse and each put in 500 sequins. I brought the others round to my opinion, and I presented him with a purse in the name of all, in the presence of a dragoman of France, England, and Flanders, and of Bonisi, at a time when no one of his following was about. He was much gratified. We could not do less than recognize various others who acted in this affair, each of us sharing. This will keep them well disposed to serve us on future occasions.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 29th March, 1617.

[Italian ; deciphered.]

March 30.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**709.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The king has been so determined in his idea of going to Scotland that although finally the whole Council went on their knees to beg him to put it off, he decided to leave London on Friday evening, the 25th inst., to begin his journey. To-morrow he will reach Abthorpe, sixty-three miles away, and he has so divided the journey that on the 20th May he will reach Berwick, the first town of Scotland. He will remain in that kingdom until the 16th August, returning to London for the 25th September, so that the whole will be done in about six months. His company has been somewhat reduced, as of the leading magnates, besides the duke of Lennox and the other Scots, there will only be the earls of Arundel, Pembroke, Montgomery, Buckingham, Southampton, Rutland ; the bishops of Ely, Winchester and Lincoln, Viscount Fenton, Baron Mordaunt and the Secretary Lake. With the other courtiers and serving men the company will not amount to 500 persons.



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Four reasons have hitherto appeared to induce His Majesty to take the journey, besides his desire to see the country where he was born. The chief one is to introduce the Anglican religion there, as the Scots almost universally follow the Puritan type. His Majesty proposes to introduce bishops and the other ceremonies used by the Catholic Church, but which were not abandoned in England, and through these the church there is different from the other reformed churches of Germany (*la principale è di introdurre in esso la Religione Anglicana, vivendo li Scocezzì quasi generalmente alla Puritana, et dissegna Sua Maestà di ponervi li Vescovi con le altre Ceremonie, che usate dalla Chiesa Cattolica non furono però mai levate dall'Inghilterra, et per le quali è questa Chiesa differente dalle altre riformate di Germania*). His Majesty wishes to reacquire possession in the Scottish kingdom of the guardianship of minors, which he previously sold to various individuals to obtain money. He wishes the administration of justice in the country, which is now in the hands of perpetual sheriffs, to be managed in the future on the English model and that they may be amovable at pleasure. Fourthly he wishes to see the accounts of his income, which have never been revised since his first visit, and it may be said that during all these years he has received the scantiest possible benefit from it, as the Treasurer states that the expenses necessary there come to a little less than the income. From all this it is clear that the king's object is to unite the two nations as much as possible and render them uniform in religion, government and everything else, so that in time he may hope for a more perfect union of hearts and perpetual tranquillity and peaceful dominion for his successors.

All these things in themselves are very vexatious, and the religious matter more than the others. We hear already that His Majesty sent on beforehand some organs to be placed in the churches of Scotland, whereupon the people, unaccustomed to the music, began to dance out of derision, so it may be that His Majesty will encounter some difficulties, especially in the wilder parts of the country, protected by great mountains, where they have always been ready to revolt, as they have shown quite recently. However, in all his kingdoms His Majesty enjoys the good fortune not to have subjects of great power by their blood or by their supporters among the people, as there have been before, so that he need not be so much afraid of those civil disputes, which occurred in times past, so it is thought that he will overcome all difficulties and bring the above mentioned things to the desired end, and whatever else he may desire for his people (*tutte le sopradette cose sono per se stesse assai fastidiose, et quella della Religione più delle altre, et già s'intende, ch'havendo Sua Maestà inviato avanti alcuni Organi, per ponerli nelle Chiese della Scotia, il popolo non assueto a quel suono per derisione si habbi posto a danzare, per il che potrà avvenire, che Sua Maestà vi incontri qualche difficoltà, massime in quella parte del paese più selvatica, che difesa da gran montagne si è in tutti i tempi, et anco questi ultimi anni dimostrato assai pronta alle sollevationi, tuttavia gode la Maestà Sua così buona fortuna in tutti i suoi Regni che non havendo sudditi di gran potere per qualità di sangue, ò per aderenza popolare come altre volte sonno stati, non si deve così*

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*facilmente temere de quei disordini civili, che si sonno reduti a tempi passati, onde stimasi che sia per superar ogni difficultà et condur al dissegnato fine le sopradette cose, et quel di più che da suoi populi potesse desiderare).*

The queen and the prince with the flower of the court accompanied the king to Theobalds, and stayed there until after dinner on Monday, when they separated. Although troubled by fever I followed the court to Theobalds and on Sunday evening at the end of the last Council I had the honour of kissing the king's hand. I wished him a most prosperous journey in the name of your Excellencies, and asked for his commands upon what I should do, especially if any instructions reached me from your Serenity, by which I might have something to make known to His Majesty. The king seemed pleased at my office and upon the last point he said that for complimentary affairs of no great importance one of his secretaries would always be here and he would send one to me without delay; and for matters of greater moment he would not be so far away but that I might communicate them to the secretary, who could inform him in Scotland by a courier sent post in the space of four days, and I should receive the reply in the same time. I said that I would do what His Majesty commanded, kissed his hands again and said the last farewells.

London, the 30th March, 1617.

[Italian.]

March 30.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacel.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**710.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The day after to-morrow the count of Scarnafigi leaves London for Italy. He received from the king a gift of 800 ounces of silver gilt plate, and his son, the cavalier, received a chain worth 400 crowns. Nothing further has been done upon his affairs, except that the earl of Buckingham told him that for the sake of His Highness he would advise him to make more confidential communication of his affairs to the king, to give him greater opportunities of helping, because in the negotiations for peace proceeding at Madrid and the authorisation given to the republic, His Majesty had received much earlier information from Spain and from the Ambassador Wotton at Venice than from His Highness, and although this was said by the earl, yet because he is the one with the king, it is taken as coming from His Majesty's own mouth. Upon the same particular I have nothing further to say to your Serenity beyond what I wrote on the 17th inst, because neither the king nor the ministers have said anything further to me about it, so that I did not wish to provoke further discussion. Only Sir [John] Digby, the Vice-Chamberlain, told me that the king had news from Spain that difficulties had arisen over the negotiations for the peace of Italy after news had arrived there of the death of Don Sanchio di Alunes and other successes of the duke, at which the Lords of the Council were very wroth and of the opinion that it did not become the greatness of the Catholic king to come to an accommodation with His Highness, at a time when His Majesty was in some sort at a disadvantage, in order not to allow the world to believe that he was driven to it by necessity.

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Before the king left London he appointed four Councillors who for five days running have been to the house of the Spanish Ambassador to treat most secretly with him about the marriage of the prince of England. At the same time he instructed Sir [John] Digby to go as extraordinary ambassador to Spain, where he had previously been as ordinary. For more than six months report has stated that he would go there and I wrote about it at the time to your Serenity. What will come of all this it surpasses mortal wit to divine, but the difficulties are known to be very great. The French Ambassador who is keeping the closest watch upon these negotiations told me that he could not believe they would come to anything, although he was quite aware that the English (he referred to those who share in the government) are much more anxious for the marriage than the Spaniards, who may possibly think the king of England to be more powerful, and desire by these marriage negotiations to keep him neutral in the various affairs of Europe, to their advantage, and they attribute to their artifices the scanty satisfaction which the king affords to all his friends for other reasons (*l'amb' di Francia, che sta qui vigilantissimo sopra questa trattatione mi dice che non può creder che si faccia, se ben sa di certo che li Inglesi, parlando però de quelli che intercegonno nel governo, ne sonno molto più desiderosi delli Spagnuoli, li quali stimando il Re di Ingh<sup>ra</sup> forse di maggior potenza pensono con la trattione del matrimonio tenerlo neutrale in diversi negotii di Europa con loro arantaggio, et attribuiscono ad effetto de loro artificii quella poca sodisfattione che per altre cause dona il Re a tutti li suoi amici*).

Digby will leave within twenty days, very eager to conclude the marriage and personally he will be very acceptable at that Court, because his inclinations are just as Spanish as if he had been born a subject of the Catholic king.\*

Lord Roos was to arrive at Dover yesterday evening. He will leave immediately for Scotland to meet His Majesty.

Sir [John] Finet (*Finetti*) has returned from Heidelberg, whither His Majesty sent him upon some domestic affairs of the princess his daughter. He brings word that the Palatine is seriously inclined to help the duke of Bouillon, but has been very cautious about declaring himself hitherto. Thus he had received the extraordinary ambassador of His Most Christian Majesty with great honour, and to the request for help he replied that he was so bound in blood and friendship to Bouillon that he could not move against him, but he begged His Most Christian Majesty to be content that he should remain neutral. The French ambassador had the same reception from some other princes of Germany, while others spoke to him in quite the opposite fashion.

An extraordinary courier from France brings word of a confederation sworn to at Soissons on the 16th March between the malcontent princes, in which they bind themselves to defend each other, with the object of restoring the king to liberty, driving the foreigners from the government, and managing in the old way, using expressions of obedience towards His Majesty, recognising him as legitimate king of France and, in the event of his death, the duke

\* The instructions to Digby drawn up by Lake contain precise directions to conclude a marriage with Spain. *State Papers. Foreign. Spain.* April 4, 1617.

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his brother, under the regency of the prince of Condé. They afterwards chose the duke of Bouillon as the chief of their union, and the king with the parliament had declared the dukes of Bouillon, Nevers, Vendôme, Mayenne, the Marshal de Courc and the President Le Jay (*Gil*) to be rebels, confiscating their goods and fees and depriving them of all their dignities. Some actions had taken place and the eldest son of Nevers was taken prisoner. Orders have been issued for the departure of the king from Paris on the 24th inst., but it is not expected to take place. Great perplexity reigns at court and Paris is most rigorously guarded as if a great army were in the neighbourhood.

The Lord Chancellor of England died this week.<sup>o</sup> No one has as yet been chosen in his place; it is thought it will be Mr. Bacon, who has received the great seal from the king, the chief dignity which is habitually held conjunction with the Chancellorship. After the Archbishop of Canterbury he is the first person of the Council, which in the king's absence will decide all the affairs of the kingdom. The queen was expected to take part in it frequently, but I do not believe that she will ever go there, as she proposes to pass the whole time out of London, and the prince will do much the same.

I have received your Excellencies' letters of the 3rd March with news of current events and instructions not to proceed further in negotiating for levies. I will, therefore, break off all negotiations and will try to keep those who are inclined to serve your Serenity favourably disposed, as I have done in the past.

London, the 30th March, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

March 30.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci dagli  
Ambasciatori  
in Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

711. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

*Immediately upon receipt of your letters dated 3 March, I went to Sir [William] Smith and informed him of your instructions and of Muscorno's desire to satisfy him, and that the 600 ducats are now at his disposal. He expressed his satisfaction and has always felt sure that the delay was caused by Muscorno's imprisonment. He desires that the money may be paid to the ambassador Wotton, because he has written letters of complaint to him to this effect that after he had set the affair going and placed it in the hands of your Excellencies, the superintendence of the close of the business is now transferred to Parris. Should the payment not have been already made Sir William asks pardon for his contradictions and leave that the amount may be paid to the ambassador; but should it have been already received by Parris the payment will have been duly made and his obligations to your Excellencies extreme.*

From London, the 30 March, 1617.

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

<sup>o</sup> Thomas Egerton, Lord Ellesmere, the chancellor, died at York House, Whitehall, on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1617.

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March 31.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.

Lettere agli  
Ambasciatori  
in Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**712.** The INQUISITORS OF STATE to GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, the Venetian Secretary in England.

Henry Parvis, the assign of Sir William Smith, delayed until yesterday his return for payment of the 600 ducats due from Giulio Muscorno. It was arranged to disburse them this morning in the presence of the secretary of the English ambassador, who had brought the receipt. All was ready when Parvis claimed bank value with an allowance for an exchange, and that the account should be made out for £150 at the rate of 20s. to the £, although he had originally admitted that the £150 was equal to 600 ducats at the rate of 6 livres and four grossi the ducat. He was told that no advantage would be claimed, as it will be easy to learn the value of the pound sterling in current Venetian coin, but that Muscorno's opinion must be taken about the other claims. Muscorno believes that this is an attempt of Parvis, especially as Sir William is aware that he would have been repaid in London, but the accidents which befell prevented him from making certain purchases there for the Lord Chamberlain, the earl of Somerset, who would have paid for them in London and thus cancelled the receipt given by Muscorno to Sir William (*se gli accidenti suoi non gli havessero levato 'l modo di far quà alcune spese per il Sig. Conte di Somerset, Gran Ciamberrano, per rimborso delle quali haveria esso in Londra pagato il suo scritto al Sig. Carr. Smith*). Muscorno is willing to pay the equivalent of £150 at 20s. to the £ in current Venetian value, and will await Sir William's reply as to whether this is a full repayment of the loan. We therefore desire you to acquaint Sir William with these particulars, saying that the delay is not due to Muscorno, to whom it would be well to consign letters of receipt, or should he write to his assign he may then announce his wishes to us through your Lordship, as we are most ready to procure all reasonable satisfaction for him.

[Italian.]

March 31.  
Cinque Savii  
alla  
Mercanzia.  
Risposte.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**713.** Demetrio Ruccani informs your Serenity that the oil, cheese, cordovan leather and wool which are exported from the island of Zante and are taken thither from the Morea and Corfu are unlawfully sold to merchants sailing to the west and it would be well to impose a heavy custom upon them as it would not sensibly affect your subjects and would bring in 80 to 40,000 ducats. We have to state that by decree of the Senate of 31 July, 1609, oil from the islands of the east may not be taken to the west, but must come to Venice; but smuggling has been rife, as the gains are considerable since oil sells in the west for half as much again as it costs in these islands, and the difficulties of the governor are increased by the very close understanding between your subjects and foreigners. On account of this smuggling we think it would be advisable to adopt Ruccani's proposal, but to impose so heavy a custom that no merchant would gain anything by taking the said oil, cheese, cordovan leather and wool to the west. We suggest 25 for every miaro of oil, 15 for every miaro of cheese, 10 for every miaro of wool and 10 for every pelt of cordovan leather, so that if the merchants buy these commodities and pay the customs, your Serenity

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will benefit by that revenue, and if they do not, the goods will go to Venice more readily.

[*Italian.*]

April 3.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**714.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

An English ship has arrived at Nice with the munitions given to His Highness by the king of Great Britain. They come at a very opportune moment. It is said that many other Dutch and Flemish ships passed the strait with it.

Asti, the 3rd April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

April 4.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**715.** OTTAVIANO BON and VINCENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Baron of Tour who went as extraordinary ambassador to England has returned. It is reported that he has not brought back the satisfaction from his negotiations which they desired here; although they console themselves by the knowledge that as the king of England has no money, he cannot do very much against them, however greatly he might desire it (*si bene si consolano col saper che non havendo il Re d'Inghilterra danari, benche aresse mala volontà, possa in effetto poco eseguire della sua intentione*).

Paris, the 4th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

April 4.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**716.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Pasini still writes to me that Stodder (*Studler*) is still a prisoner, but he may come out any day and will then leave immediately for Venice.

The Hague, the 4th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

April 5.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**717.** PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Yesterday morning the Secretary Arostighi again came to see me. He told me that he had instructions to say that His Majesty still remained desirous of peace, as he had always been, and to satisfy His Holiness, the Most Christian King, the king of England, and other princes who had made strong representations to him, he agreed to establish a good peace with the duke of Savoy, upon condition that His Highness should give satisfaction to the duke of Mantua, submit his differences with that prince to the emperor; restore the places taken, and he would do the same. He asked me to review my instructions and give a reply.

Madrid, the 5th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

1617.  
April 6.  
Senato,  
Secreta,  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**718.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The king continues his journey in good health and will reach Lincoln to-day, 105 miles away. I hear that shortly before his departure letters arrived from the Lord Chancellor of Scotland, who rules there almost absolutely in his absence,\* informing him that in accordance with his commands he had sounded the opinions of several persons of every rank upon the reforms in religion and the other matters which His Majesty proposes, and although he found in all of them the usual devotion of good subjects, yet he begged His Majesty not to come with the settled determination to carry into effect all the projects which he is turning over in his mind; but rather to govern them by what may occur and by possibilities, as otherwise either His Majesty or the people may suffer a rebuff. In confirmation of what the Lord Chancellor writes it is becoming apparent that the mere rumour of some change in religion and certain indications, which have preceded His Majesty, have begun to cause a stir, the women being the first to complain that they want to return to Popery, and what is more noteworthy, I hear that some of the leading Scottish earls and barons are leaving Scotland and crossing the sea upon various pretexts, so that they may not be there on the king's arrival and forced to accept his innovations or show themselves disobedient by not accepting them, choosing rather to remain away from home for this short time in the hope that after His Majesty's departure from Scotland it will be more easy to destroy what has been done than to dispute the matter in his presence (*in conformità di questo che scrivere il Gran Canc' si va scoprendo che la sola voce di alterar in qualche parte religione et alcuni segni che sonno precorsi a Sua Maestà, comincia di la a metter bisbiglio et le femine sonno le prime a dolersi che si vogli ritornar il Papismo, et quello che più deve esser estimato, intendo che diversi de' principali Conti et Baroni Scocezzi se ne usciscono di Scotia per andar sotto diversi pretesti di la dal mare, con fine di non vi si ritrovare all'arrivo del Re, per non esser astretti ad adherire alle sue innovationi, o mostrarseli inobedienti col non accettarle, elleggendo più tosto star fuori questo poco tempo di casa, con speranza doppò la partita di S. M<sup>a</sup> di Scotia poter più facilmente distrugger quello che si sara fatto che contrastarlo in sua presentia*).

Lord Roos came as I said he would, and has gone to see the king, leaving a report with some who have visited him in this city that he brings from the Catholic Court some amount of liberty for His Majesty to intervene in the settlement of Savoy. In my opinion he has put this abroad solely in order to maintain his reputation with the multitude, which has suffered considerably by this embassy of his. He has orders from the Catholic king to make the most urgent representations to the king here, so that he may forbid the voyage of Sir Walter Raleigh, who is terribly feared by the Spaniards, who have better reasons for alarm than all the other princes of the world. Many of the English themselves are not without suspicion of him, as he is singularly bold, well armed, aggrieved with the king, owing to his imprisonment for thirteen years and the sentence

\* Alexander Seton. earl of Dunfermline.

1617.

of death which still hangs over him, reduced from great wealth to comparative poverty, and loaded with debts, all which things excite a doubt whether he will not turn to where hopes of greater booty invite him (*tien ordini dal Cat<sup>e</sup> di far ogni più efficace ufficio con questo Re acciò interdica il viaggio a Ser Vat Rale, temuto assaissimo da Spagnuoli con tanto maggior ragione quanto ne possono anco temere tutti i altri Principi del mondo et molti delli medisimi Inglesi non restono di lui senza sospetto, poiche l'esser egli di singolar valore, bene armato, disgustato del Re per la prigionia di tredici anni et per la condanna della vita alla quale ancora sottogiace, riddotto da gran ricchezze si più dir in povertà et pieno di debiti fa dubitar che sù per rivolgersi ore la speranza di maggior bothino lo possi invitare*).

He is hastening on in order to leave in a few days. He has seven ships in the river here as well furnished with everything as possible. In addition to the sailors he has seven hundred soldiers, picked from the nobility and young men who flocked to him. It is said that an equal number of ships are awaiting him at sea outside to join him. If this be true it seems that there is scarcely any project which he might not undertake with good hopes of success.

I am assured, on very good authority, that the meetings between the king's four councillors and the Catholic ambassador about the marriage of the prince have ended, after long discussions and negotiations, in such agreement that Sir [John] Digby is going as ambassador to Spain simply to ask for the princess to be the wife of the Prince of Wales and await the reply of the Catholic king. The ambassador promises that the reply will be so courteous in granting her and accompanying her with offers and most honourable conditions that it will give every satisfaction without need for anything more, and a conclusion will immediately be arrived at, and even if the offers of the king of Spain do not meet with the wishes of England the king here may declare what he desires and reduce the affair to negotiation. These instructions have given satisfaction here. In conformity with them Sir [John] Digby will leave within ten or twelve days. The king here, by sending this ambassador, by other signs and by various remarks made upon several occasions, has shown that he is very anxious to make an alliance with Spain, the queen is inclined the same way and the prince also, as although it at first seemed rather distasteful to him, owing to the influence of his tutor and others with him, he is now being won over by degrees, and his own servants do not dare to stand against so much weight, as the whole of the royal Council is of this opinion, with the possible exception of the Secretary Winwood and Sir [Thomas] Edmondes, who have little love for Spain. (*Questo Re se dimostra con la missione dell'amb<sup>ra</sup> con altri segni et con dirse parole dette più volte assai volonteroso di apparentarsi con Spagna, la Regina vi è medisimamente inclinata et il Principe istesso, che per opera del Precettore et altri che lo assistono se ne mostrava più tosto alieno, hora vien a poco a poco guadagnato, et li istessi suoi servitori non ardiscono contraporsi a tanta piena, poiche medesimamente tutto il Consiglio Reale è di questa opinione et forse non eccettuati altri che il Secretario Vinut et il Cav<sup>o</sup> Edmonds, poco affettionati alla parte di Spagna.*) Thus Edmondes recently spoke very warmly about



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this in the Council, saying that if the marriage with Spain took place, in addition to various other prejudices which England would suffer, she will lose all her ancient alliances and friendships, but on the other hand someone undertook to answer him, taking a stand upon false premises, that this was the proper way to preserve them. I may say the same thing of the archbishop of Canterbury, as he has frequently declared to me and to others that he was strongly opposed to the marriage, although it seems to me that he has not at present offered any great opposition to the negotiations or to the sending of the ambassador, reserving himself to do so with the rest of the clergy when they come to the point of religion, upon which and the manner of bringing up the children and some other questions there may arise such difficulties that the whole affair may end in nothing yet.

The king has destined Sir John Bennet, the queen's chancellor, to be ambassador extraordinary to the Archduke Albert. The occasion is not generally known, but I find that it is about a book which Dr. Puteanus of Louvain in Brabant has written against His Majesty, not only in blame of his religion, but full of slanders and especially with respect to his character, upon which he has cast many vile aspersions. His Majesty has felt this attack more than any other thing that might befall him, and has therefore decided to send a special ambassador to the archduke, either to demand the author or ask for his punishment, or at least that the book may be suppressed. I hear also that some few days ago two Englishmen went to Louvain to avenge themselves on Puteanus\* for the insult to their king, but through a mistake in the name they took another doctor of that university instead, and beat him so severely that they left him half dead. This mistake has rendered the libel even more famous.

The Spanish fleet which left Cadiz and entered the Strait has turned back. According to the news brought by another ship which comes from Spain, it is resting in the port of Cadiz, which leads to the supposition that they are meditating upon some design in Africa or against the pirates, who are very strong in those seas. The Spaniards have also deliberated upon making a fort in the Strait of Gibraltar, where all the ships which go from there are accustomed to stop to victual.

Although I have been keenly on the watch for the passing of the Dutch ships, not the smallest news has reached this mart, no ship having ever arrived which could have met them near the Strait. But this is considered a good sign.

Your Serenity's letters of the 7th and 10th of March have reached me with the news of current affairs in Italy and of the naval provisions made by your Excellencies.

The latter have been already made known here by the letters of others and are generally praised as being worthy of the Senate.

London, the 6th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

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\* The book was entitled *Isaaci Casauboni corona regia.*

1617.  
April 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**719.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

The Ambassador Donato confirms the news of the capture of Montiglio in Montferrat. The prince of Savoy went there as it was a convenient post to prevent help from reaching S. Germano. On his arrival, after a few shots, they offered to treat, and hostages were exchanged. Meanwhile a strife broke out between the French and Piedmontese, and among the slain was the duke's hostage. For this a Provençal knight was beheaded.

The like to Rome, Germany, Spain, France, Florence, Naples. Milan, Zurich, Coire, the Hague.

Ayes 144.  
Noes 0.  
Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

April 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives

**720.** SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador at Rome, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have heard of the evil proceedings of the archbishop of Spalatro, and I may certainly say that he has deceived me. I will use the information when an opportunity occurs.

Rome, the 8th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

April 10.  
Collegio,  
Ceremoniale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**721.** The English ambassador came into the Cabinet accompanied by Joachim Ernest, duke of Holstein (*Olsatia*).

The ambassador took his customary place with the duke on the left hand of his Serenity above the Councillors. He said that he had come to serve the republic. He was thanked and presented with refreshments to the sum of 50 ducats. Before leaving, all the gentlemen in his company kissed the hand of His Serenity.

[*Italian.*]

April 10.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Germania.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**722.** ZORZI GIUSTINIAN, Venetian Ambassador in Germany, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I can hardly doubt but that the galleons of Ossuna are intended chiefly to molest the affairs of your Serenity. Their action is generally recognised as scandalous. I have heard Zuniga say that his king has completely lost the obedience of his ministers in Italy and there is no wonder that he is losing his reputation and even worse. But perhaps the sending out of the ships and great galleys may stay them, as those galleys enjoy a great reputation everywhere, and when I was in England the mere report that they had been sent out sufficed to bridle their pirates, and they said that nothing was more effective against sailing vessels.

Prague, the 10th April, 1617. *Copy.*

[*Italian.*]

1617.

April 11.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**723.** OTTAVIANO BON and VINCENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The English ambassador who is expected here in a few days is to make representations in favour of the princes and of the peace of the kingdom. It is not thought that he will have much success, as they know beforehand that his commissions are nothing more than words, and as these have no support from the fear of their being followed by action, they rather serve to confirm than to delay the determination of Their Majesties to proceed to the complete discrediting of the malcontent princes.

Paris, the 11th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

April 11.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**724.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Secretary at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The pope recently wrote to the Viceroy exhorting him to peace. I hear that His Excellency replied that he was acting in the interests of the Catholic religion, for which the republic evidently cares so little, as they maintain in Venice schools of schismatic friars and with their money they have brought heretics from France and now they are even fetching ships from Holland and England, who aspire to the ruin of religion, the sack of the holy house and of Rome itself. The service of God requires that your Serenity be cut off from these ships.

Naples, the 11th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

April 14.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci agli  
Ambasciatori.  
in Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**725.** The INQUISITORS OF STATE to GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England.

On the 12th instant the debt due by Muscorno to Sir William Smith was settled by the payment to Mr. Henry Parvis of 631 ducats 13 grossi in the presence of the secretary of the ambassador of the king of Great Britain, who has acted jointly with Parvis throughout; we believe that Sir William will be completely satisfied.

[*Italian.*]

April 14.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**726.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have this week received your Serenity's letters of the 16th ult. and one of the 25th, which in addition to the current news from Italy contain an exposition of Sig. Piero Loredano. This will greatly assist me, supposing that the false rumour about the dissatisfaction of Count William of Nassau passes the sea. I will make use of the contents.

I will also save up for a fitting opportunity the news which your Excellencies send me about the office performed by the Secretary of England about the passport of the archbishop of Spalatro, governing my reply in accordance with the decision of the Senate

1617.

of the 7th March. So far I have not heard a word about the subject, although I have recently seen both the archbishop of Canterbury and the Secretary Winwood, and I hope that nothing will be said to me about it in the future.

With regard to the news from Naples and the naval preparations of the Viceroy, I desired to inform the king immediately, just as your Excellencies communicated the matter to the Ambassador Wotton. I went on Tuesday therefore to see Winwood, through whom, as I have already written, all business must be transacted in the absence of His Majesty. I told him that your Serenity felt that the confidential relations with His Majesty required that you should inform him of all the important events that take place in this province, and therefore of the new preparations of the Viceroy of Naples. I went on to describe them and for what purpose they were made, according to report, and what your Serenity proposed to do on your side to offer a proper resistance to such overweening designs, so removed from all decency since the republic has always shown her perfect disposition for quiet everywhere and always meets with proper readiness all reasonable proposals for peace. Your Excellencies felt sure that His Majesty would hear all this with sentiments becoming to the worthiness of his disposition, and if attempts of this kind are carried further, he will support his opinion by action worthy of our high opinion of his friendship, and I went on to say something of the reponse which he has always met with from your Serenity upon all occasions.

Winwood replied, Threatened men live long and if the Spaniards give out that they wish to enter the Gulf, their intentions are certainly directed elsewhere; however, it would be quite worthy of the prudence of the republic to make preparations for her own defence, of which word had reached him from the ambassador Wotton, in an office similar to mine. Both offices would be sent together to the king on the same day, and if His Majesty ordered any reply he would communicate it to me. He told me that they had no news from Spain of what had been done with regard to the negotiations for peace, of which some people had very little hope. Thus the Ambassador Wotton in his last letters reports that your Serenity was aware that the negotiations were simply a trick of the Spaniards to separate them from the duke of Savoy, and this knowledge stimulated your Excellencies to do more for the duke, and you had given orders to enlist more troops for his service. I said that I did not know so much as that, but most certainly the republic enjoyed an easy conscience through having shown a disposition for peace at every opportunity, and if she had not been able to obtain it, owing to the failure of others, she would act with her usual generosity, whatever might occur.

I asked him why the sending of Sir [Thomas] Edmondes to France was so much delayed, as I knew that His Majesty desired him to leave some weeks ago, and that kingdom seemed to be falling into greater and greater confusion. He told me that Edmondes would have left some days ago, only, a thing which seemed very strange to the king, since the beginning of the last rupture he had received no news from the prince of the state of their affairs, and although he is willing to do them some service, he does

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not know how he can if they do not let him know themselves. Accordingly he wrote recently to some of them, and to Bouillon in particular, asking him to make some communications. Until Bouillon's reply arrives, and they expect it soon, Edmondes will stay his departure, and afterwards he will be sent with instructions, which will be determined by Bouillon's letter.

I hear that the fleet of Cadiz which returned to port was compelled to do so by lack of provisions. A report was abroad and Winwood wished me to believe that it was intended to go to the Adriatic sea, but when they became aware of the lack of provisions they returned. I am not so ready to believe this however, because if it had been intended for such a purpose I do not think that the person responsible would have been so foolish so that the lack of provisions would not have been found out long before; and even if it were not so, the Spaniards have so many safe ports in the Mediterranean that they could provide themselves with sufficient without turning back. Whatever their intentions were or may be, and so far I confess I do not know, the fleet has been at Cadiz these last days, and the Spanish ambassador here seemed mortified at its retirement, and there is no lack of suspicious persons who go about whispering about some design of the Spaniards upon England, as they reckon that the Catholic king might suddenly collect a hundred ships from his western ports and make some attempt now that the king is far away, but the opinion is not general and there are no grounds for making it credible (*non vi mancano huomini sospettosi che dubitano et vanno susurrando qualche disegno de Spagnoli sopra l' Inghra. facendo loro conti che possi il Catco. far in un subito raccolta di cento vesselli da suoi porti di Ponente, et tentar qualche impresa hora che il Re e lontano ma però il concetto non è universale ne vi è cosa fondamentale che lo rendi credibile*).

Sir Walter Raleigh has gone down the Thames with his seven ships, with written commissions to go to Guiana to acquire mines. I know quite well that his sole purpose in choosing this undertaking was to escape from perpetual imprisonment, and that he would willingly exchange it for something else. Many others are aware of this and he leaves behind him a general curiosity upon his affairs (*io so assai bene che da lui non è stata eletta questa impresa con altra fine che di liberarsi dalla Peggion perpetua, et che la cangiarebbe volentieri in qualsisia altra, et questo lo sanno molti altri, onde è generale la curiosità che lascia qui di casi suoi*).

Some private brawls have taken place in Scotland between the earl of Errol (*Grol*) and the marquis of Huntly (*Ontele*) both leading Catholics of that country and members of the Council. Owing to their numerous adherents this has caused something like a civil war in the kingdom, as each of them can lead from five to six thousand men into the field. This circumstance added to other disturbances will give rise to some changes about the continuation of His Majesty's journey, although the fire has been somewhat quenched, and both have agreed to remain in their houses until the king's arrival in Edinburgh.

Lord Hay (*Gis*), who was recently ambassador extraordinary in France, has been admitted to the Council of State.

London, the 14th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

1617.  
April 15.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**727.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople,  
to the DOGE and SENATE.

Since the arrival of the Imperial ambassador here I have only called upon him once and that was when the Ambassador Gallo was here. I acted thus because such meetings were not received favourably by the last Caimmecam, so that Gallo had to ask for leave in writing for the other ambassadors and myself to receive the visits of the Imperial ambassadors and return them. Since the appointment of the new Vizier I have been so busy that I have scarcely had time to breathe; but now I think a continued reserve would only increase mistrust, and accordingly I called. The Imperial ambassador was very pleased, the more so because I shall set an example to the other ambassadors to do the same, as they have not called either more than once in all this time. Two days later he returned the visit. *The Caimmecam tried to induce the Vizier to prevent it, but he exclaimed that he was an ambassador and not a slave, and they thought it better to let him alone.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 15th April, 1617.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

April 15.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**728.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople,  
to the DOGE and SENATE.

I wrote on the 13th ult. that the Pasha gave me and the other ambassadors of France, England and Flanders an order for the removal of the carazo from the subjects of our four nations and that for the sake of greater security I obtained an Imperial decree for the special interest of your Serenity. The ambassadors have now discovered that I have assured the interests of your Serenity, though they do not know how. They have more than once approached me, saying that the matter requires further consideration to establish it better, though they pretend not to know that I have obtained anything in particular. From these advances it appears either that they have tried to obtain some advantage in this affair and have not succeeded or that they did not know how to manage the affair. However, I decided to help them, especially as I knew it could not prejudice the service of your Serenity. I told their messenger that the Pasha's order was of little or no use, but I would think out something for the general benefit. Accordingly I have tried to induce the Pasha to give an Imperial decree to cover all. He replied the others had an order which would serve their purpose, and no more was necessary. However, by repeated offices and the help of one who has great influence with him, I finally induced him to issue another Imperial decree like the first, but including France, England and Flanders. I did this to remove the suspicion of the other ambassadors that I had something else to myself in this matter. I had four copies made of this last decree, and gave one to each of the ambassadors, keeping the fourth for myself.

This important affair has greatly increased the reputation of your Serenity at this Court, and the ambassadors seem supremely satisfied, as without any labour on their part they have obtained

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their desire after they had become firmly convinced that the point about the dragomans would never be conceded.

*An English gentleman has recently arrived, sent by his king to their ambassador resident here, with letters to the Grand Turk and to the Captain of the Sea, now the Grand Vizier, upon the affair of the carazo and to procure the restitution of the money wrongfully taken from the English merchant Garrai by the last Caimecam. About the first matter the ambassador had no occasion to bother himself, as it was completely settled; with regard to the second it may be that with the advantage of a just cause and the favourable disposition of the Pasha he may obtain what he desires. The ambassador and the English gentleman both went to see the Pasha, who made them both be seated. The ambassador presented his king's letters, saying that those for the Grand Turk had not yet been translated, and these were to be presented first. For my part I hope that their request will be granted, as it would at least make it certain that the late Caimecam would not return to power for some little time. Every one wishes him away, because with him there were always trouble and disturbance.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 15th April, 1617.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**729.** Translation of Imperial decree that French, English, Venetian and Flemish subjects and merchants shall be free from the carazo, as well as their dragomans. Dated at the residence, Constantinople, on the first of the moon Rebuilachin, the year 1026, that is, the 10th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

April 15.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Roma.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**730.** SIMON CONTARINI, Venetian Ambassador at Rome, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have been to call upon the Cardinal Borgia. Among other things we spoke about the Turks. I happened to refer to their extensive and united dominions. He said: Our king lacks that cohesion; oh those Indies, those Indies. I reminded him that Flanders was also separated. It is only too true, he replied.

Rome, the 15th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

April 16.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**731.** PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Secretary of England told me of the suspicions which he hears that the duke of Savoy cherishes that your Excellencies will settle your differences and will not try to arrange his, but will abandon him. He assured me that when the secretary of his king resident at Turin charged him to keep an eye on my negotiations, at the request of His Highness, he had replied that he had heard not only from me, who had kept him supplied with information about the negotiations, but from other sources also that my offices were

1617.

directed to obtain a joint settlement of present affairs, and to achieve the universal peace of that province.

He went on to speak of the proposal to transfer the negotiations to Rome. He seemed pleased that this had not taken place. He said that the duke, when pressed to consent by Cardinal Lodovisio, had refused, saying that the ministers of all the princes, his friends, could not be present at Rome. He added that he was pleased that the negotiations were passing through the hands of your Excellencies, and asked me if the French ambassador would take part in them, being seemingly somewhat jealous. He ended by remarking that your Serenity had acquired the greatest glory by your last operations, and had undeceived many who at this court and elsewhere had formed a very low idea of the forces of the republic.

From more than one direction I hear that the duke of Savoy will not consent to lay down his arms unless the differences which he has with the duke of Mantua about Montferrat are settled at the same time, and that he claims to retain some place in his hands until the issue of this affair appears.

Madrid, the 16th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

April 18.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**732.** OTTAVIANO BON and VINCENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The count of Scarnafis, who was ambassador of the duke of Savoy in England, has passed this way on his return to Piedmont. He visited none but us ambassadors of your Serenity, as a sign of the esteem of His Highness for the republic. He made various remarks about the help which the princes of Italy may expect from the king of England in their affairs and of the evil offices performed in England by the baron of Tour, the extraordinary ambassador of His Most Christian Majesty there, against the service of the duke of Savoy. We send no particulars, as your Excellencies will have full information from the Secretary Lionello, because Scarnafis told us that he had given him the fullest information from time to time.

Paris, the 18th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

April 21.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**733.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

Yesterday we heard from the General in Dalmatia and the count of Liesina that they decided to attack two galleasses of Naples at Liesina before our other maritime provisions arrived. An action took place, in which one of the ships was damaged. Nothing of moment has happened in Istria. In Friuli the archducal forces sacked a town, not sparing the church, but they were repulsed with loss at Cividale.

The Dutch troops have arrived safely. The long voyage seems to have rather invigorated the soldiers. The ships all arrived separately, and neither received nor feared any molestation. One of them fell in with the galleys of Naples, but on being challenged



1617.

and ordered to haul to, they proceeded straight on without any hindrance. The troops seem well disciplined and obedient and are all veterans.

We have received letters this evening stating that at Bossina seven children, male and female, of the age of ten to twelve years, our subjects, have been taken by the archducal forces and sold as slaves to the Turks.

The like to the Imperial Court, the Hague, Savoy, France, Spain, Rome, Milan, Naples, Florence, Mantua, Zurich, Coire, Constantinople.

Ayes 159.

Noes 0.

Neutral 8.

[*Italian.*]

April 21.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.

Dispacci agli  
Ambasciatori  
in Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**734.** The INQUISITORS OF STATE to the SECRETARY LIONELLO in England.

You have heard of the particulars about the affairs of Sir William Smith and the payment of his bond in the presence of the secretary of the ambassador of Great Britain, who returned thanks very courteously; we desire to express our satisfaction with your conduct of the business.

[*Italian.*]

April 22.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**735.** PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*I have recently been trying to discover the arrangements proposed for the succession. His Catholic Majesty intends to leave to Ferdinand his claims on Bohemia and Hungary, giving up the idea of transferring the Empire to Albert. He has given up his pretensions for a recompense for yielding his claims, recognising the hatred of the Bohemians and Hungarians for the Spaniards. This information was given me by a friend, agent of the princes of Germany, who is staying at this Court, through whom they are trying to conciliate people, and they are even spending considerable sums of money, to enfeeble the forces of the league of Hall, which is greatly feared here. The secretary of England has told me the same thing. He has orders from his king to keep an eye on these negotiations, because of the suspicions which His Majesty and the Dutch States feel about them.*

Madrid, the 22nd April, 1617.

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

April 23.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**736.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*Bethune says that the king of England has informed Their Majesties that he is going to Scotland to remain there six months, so that he will not be able to listen to the requests of princes or give them any help whatsoever.*

Turin, the 23rd April, 1617.

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

1617.  
April 24.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**737.** OTTAVIANO BON and VINCENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Send word of the death of the Marshal d'Ancre, which took place about ten that morning. M. de Vitry (*Vittù*), captain of the king's guards, M. du Hallier (*de l'agli*), his brother, the two brothers Luynes and the rest of the guards, accompanied by a number of the nobility, stood with drawn swords at the entrance of the Louvre and shot down the Marshal with pistols. It is said to have been done by the king's express orders, who could no longer support his insolence. The queen and the Marshal suspected nothing. This event has caused scarcely less sensation in the city than the assassination of the late king, but it has occasioned very different emotions. His Majesty sent word of the event throughout the kingdom, hoping that the news will appease the princes and other malcontents, who will submit without further difficulty, and recognise the king as they have always professed to do.

Paris, the 24th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

April 25.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**738.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

In response to the office of the French ambassador in the congregation of the states of Holland, they have replied that the province is resolved to defend the crown, but will not declare for the number of 50,000 foot. With regard to the obligations of these States to the crown, they contend that they are not bound to go against the king's subjects, and in any case His Majesty must ask for help; that the object of the league was against the Spaniards, and had always been understood as such, as if they had to go and help the king whenever he gave the slightest sign, they would be obliged to help him against the king of England, and every other ally.

There is an English ambassador in Brussels<sup>a</sup> to demand the punishment of the doctor of Louvain, who has slandered the king in a book which may be called a notable libel.

The Hague, the 25th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

April 25.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**739.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Your Excellencies may believe how relieved and glad I was to hear that Count John Ernest of Nassau would be in Venice on the 7th, the day of your letter, and that the ships with the troops from these parts were beginning to arrive. Here this rejoicing has been general, and when I communicated the news to the States General they expressed their great satisfaction to hear that the ships had arrived in so short a time. They are surprised here that no hindrance was encountered after all the threats of the Spaniards.

The Hague, the 25th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

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<sup>a</sup> Sir John Bennet. See No. 718 at page 485, above.

1617.  
April 27.  
Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**740.** The Ambassador of England came into the Cabinet and said :

I have brought to the palace the earl of Oxford, one of the chief nobles of our country, who holds the office of Lord Chamberlain, which has been hereditary in his family for many years. In other times his ancestors have rendered great services, to-day the general of the English in the Low-Countries is of the same house and so is a colonel of Count Ernest. He has stayed some time in Florence to learn the language and cavalry exercises. In these unquiet times he has come to see this city and take his sword in hand in the service of your Excellencies. Your Serenity will do me the favour to allow him to enter and kiss hands and to see the beauties of this city. His curiosity has been excited not only by universal report but by the action of his father, who when once he reached Venice, did not wish to proceed further and even built himself a house here.

I rejoice to find that in the colonelcy of Dutch troops there are quite 600 soldiers of our nation. The captains have called on me and declare that they are all veterans. They hope to find occasion to prove their worth and that your Serenity will consider them equal to 6,000, and excuse a certain amount of disorder at the beginning, as they have had a long journey, and the change from small beer to wine has been sudden.\*

I am informed from the court of the Elector Palatine that there will be an ambassador of Savoy at the meeting of the princes, and therefore the affairs of his master and the general interests will be considered.

The ambassador then introduced the nobleman, both the doge and ambassador rising to welcome him ; and after the doge had replied they both left immediately.

[*Italian.*]

April 27  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra  
Venetian  
Archives.

**741.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

This absence of the king from England, taking him so far away from all the ministers of princes has so enfeebled all foreign negotiations that your Excellencies must not expect any news from these parts. This applies especially to Italy, of which they speak and think little or nothing. The duke of Savoy, since he took away his ambassador from here, has made no further office and has written nothing to Biondi, who remains here to negotiate in his name. The councillors here attend solely to the private affairs of the kingdom, and if any one of them chances to say anything about the other affairs of the world it is rather to show that they have not forgotten them entirely, than from any inclination whatever to come to some good resolution for the common benefit. The Council meets frequently at Greenwich, where the queen generally lives. The prince is going there to-morrow to stay some weeks.

\* 'Sir John Vere still in Istria. The souldier extreemely unrulable uppon the chaunge from smale beere to strong wines.' Wotton to Winwood, 21 April, 1617. *State Papers, Foreign, Venice.*

1617.

The expedition of Sir [John] Digby to Spain is being delayed. Everyone speaks differently of his negotiations, according to their own particular sympathies. The ambassador has left for Flanders upon the occasion of the book published against His Majesty.

The question dealt with most steadily by the Council and the one which may prove of the greatest importance, is a negotiation between His Majesty and the merchants trading in the east and the south. They have represented to His Majesty that owing to the swarms of pirates the trade in those parts is almost entirely ruined, and if a remedy be not speedily applied there is clearly a danger that the mischief will spread to the Ocean and affect universal trade. They contend that His Majesty is bound to protect them, while they are ready to bear the bulk of the cost of destroying the pirates if His Majesty will give them six of his ships, facilities for munitions and other things. These matters have been negotiated in the Council every day of late by order of the king. It seems that after some difficulties they have arranged to give four royal ships to the merchants, who are to arm them and send others of their own with them. They propose to do this, and promise 40,000 crowns as a gift to the earl of Southampton if he will undertake the command. It is said that they will soon begin to arm, to be ready to start in September. They hope for the co-operation of the Dutch, and expect to be so strong that they will not only destroy the pirates, but damage the Turks also. The matter is not yet completely settled, but it takes more definite shape every day.

The reply of the duke of Bouillon has never appeared to the letter written to him by the king here. Winwood and the other ministers have lost patience at this, and Edmondes is still waiting to start immediately they arrive. But it has become clear by the latest advices that the affairs of France are not only ripe for a complete breach, but matters have come to such a pass that they do not recognise the king except in name, while many individuals are showing discontent who had not hitherto declared themselves, and even cities and entire provinces are in such a state that, if a remedy be not applied, the monarchy may speedily be reduced very easily to a number of separate princes and free towns, as is the case in Germany.

The Spaniards have tried to attract to their service for the war a prominent subject of this kingdom. He would not listen to them; except only to serve them against the infidels, but not against any Christian prince. This circumstance, in addition to the great provisions which they are making throughout the world, gives rise to the belief here that they are quite determined to make war in Italy. Accordingly most people have heard very gladly of the prosperous voyage made by the Dutch troops, and some of those who formerly came to me with offers to serve with troops now cherish fresh hopes that your Excellencies, encouraged by this example, may decide to take a certain number of them.

The king is 200 miles away from here, everything going exceedingly well. He has made many knights and dispensed other titles on the journey at the instance of the Scottish servants, as in this way they provide the expenses which must be incurred in Scotland.

1617.

The parliament of that kingdom is summoned for the end of next month, when His Majesty will state what he proposes to do. The earl of Montgomery has been made a member of the Council.

I have received your Serenity's letters of the 7th April, with the current news.

London, the 27th April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

April 28.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni  
Venetian  
Archives.

**742.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

Letters from Curzola and Liesena states that the captain of the galleys of Naples left Sabionello with a north-west wind and proceeded to sea, it is not known whither. It is conjectured that they have gone to the Levant or Brindisi to join their other forces. Our ships and galeasses on arriving at Liesina on the 22nd inst. left the same night with two other galeasses, ten light galleys and armed barques under General Bellegno, to follow those galleys and protect the navigation of the Gulf.

We have begun to send a portion of the Dutch troops to Friuli and we shall dispose the remainder as our service requires. In Piedmont the Spaniards do not move; the Savoyards are still pressing the siege of S. Germano, guarding Montferrat and refreshing their cavalry.

The like to the Imperial Court, the Hague, Rome, Spain, France, Milan, Naples, Florence, Coire, Zurich, Mantua, Constantinople.

The like to Savoy, except the last part about the news from Piedmont.

Ayes 157.

Noes 1.

Neutral 5.

[*Italian.*]

April 28.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Dispacci dagli  
Ambasciatori  
in Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**743.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS of STATE.

As soon as I had got back from Sir [William] Smith's house, he came after me, having heard that I had called, and showed me a letter from Parvis stating that he had been summoned to receive the money but had been unable to do so because he had not got the deed, and there was some difficulty with the Ambassador Wotton, who wished to have the money in his own hands to make use of it himself and afterwards send it to Smith as a set off against the sums owing to him from the royal exchequer for such a long time. Smith was somewhat upset at this and will take it as a favour that the money shall not get into the hands of the ambassador.

I told him that I knew that there was something behind this matter and told him how Parvis had returned to take the money, accompanied by the English Secretary, and of the three difficulties in the way of payment. We had a long conversation; I showed him that Sig. Muscorno was not accountable for the delay and asked him to be content to receive the money without the bank rate or any interest. He has replied to-day that he never intended

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to make any profit out of the money, which was merely a friendly loan. He has therefore written the enclosed letter to Parvis and says that he makes no claim to anything by reason of the exchange or interest or any other gain, so that he receive in England the £150 sterling which he lent. I may add that I do not see how Smith can have £150 sterling in England unless they are sent to him by letters from Venice and the money adjusted to the ordinary rate of the Piazza, so that it will be necessary for the money to pass the banco, and either Muscorno or Smith must bear the loss.

I send your Excellencies a part of the examination of Sig. Foscarini, and now that I am in better health, I will diligently continue the remainder.

From London, the 28 April, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

April 29.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**744.** To the AMBASSADOR at TURIN.

You will inform the Spanish ambassador that we shall only treat in conjunction with the duke. We have never failed to maintain good relations with the States and the princes of the Union. The princes are assembled at Embrun; we shall learn their decision, the offices there of the ambassador of the king of Great Britain and the States, and the replies given. We shall answer in conformity to the Ambassador Scaglia.

That the above be read to the Ambassador Scaglia.

Ayes 152.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

April 29.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disposci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**745.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*Last week the English ambassador called upon me, and I took the opportunity to ask him about the projects of his king to take away from the Turks the silk trade with Persia and transfer it to England, by the navigation of the Ocean, as I understand that the ambassador of His Majesty with the Great Mogul has found ports for lading and facilities for carrying to the immense advantage of that kingdom, and a corresponding loss to the Turks, and that the chief difficulty appeared to consist in finding the money, which would amount to three to four millions to buy the silk for the first year. The ambassador replied that the question of money was the smallest difficulty of all, and that he knew full well what were the bases of this affair, because the letters of the king's ambassador with the Great Mogul, directed to His Majesty, had come first to his hands, and after he had read them he had sent them on, but it was all a chimaera, because the silk was taken from the stock of individuals and not from the king's, and that those who look out for it to take it to Aleppo and elsewhere must go and collect it from various individuals who are countless in numbers; some would not have more than 2 lire of silk to sell, and even the largest stocks were not considerable, so that it would be necessary for the king of Persia to become the*

1617.

factor of the king of England, and for these and other reasons he thought that the project was an affair of phrases merely, and that the facilities mentioned exist only in the lively imagination of the ambassador, who believes in what he proposes and not because the nature of the affair promises success.

I also took this opportunity to remark to the ambassador that I heard from that court that the merchants interested had admitted that the French and Venetians were far from being distressed at the troubles which arose in connection with the carazo, and that they were secretly intriguing to exclude the English from the East, to increase their own trade the more. I told him, in this connection, that I could not penetrate into the hearts of men, least of all into those of aliens, but from the part which I had taken in this affair I could assure His Excellency that there was nothing in view except the common benefit, and this appeared clearly by the Imperial decree which I had obtained in the name of all.

The ambassador replied that no one was forbidden to desire what he considered would be most to his advantage, and as no active steps had been taken to the prejudice of his nation, no attention should be paid to casual remarks, and he would always bear witness to the perfect understanding which existed between us. To tell the truth he seems to be a worthy man and he professes the greatest esteem for the republic.

This ambassador has not yet presented to His Majesty the letter of his king which the gentleman brought. The Pasha has told him that he shall have audience as soon as His Majesty returns to the seraglio, but he is now away taking his ease. There is some suspicion that the letter contains a complaint against the late Caimecam for the money wrongfully taken from Mr. Arthur Garvai, an English merchant, to the amount of 80,000 and more, as I have already reported. The Caimecam, to avoid the ruin which might overtake him for this reason is making large gifts in the seraglio, either to prevent the presentation of the letter, or to assure himself even if it is presented.

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 29th April, 1617.

[Italian ; deciphered.]

April 29.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**746.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Next month will complete the year since I was appointed to act as ambassador with the king of Great Britain, and for the same period that court had been left without a representative in these stirring times, to its no small dissatisfaction. I am at fault for keeping silence so long, but the public service demands that I should do so no more. If I do not go to my office this summer, winter will be upon us, a season unfit for crossing the mountains and the sea, and I shall have to wait yet another year, and perhaps your Excellencies will not secure the continuation of that friendship which ought to be highly esteemed and which may prove of great assistance in troublous times. Moreover I am no longer able to support this way of living; I suffer the tortures of hell, and have to make the most severe inroads into my fortune.

I humbly beg your Excellencies to have regard for my pitiful condition.

Turin, the 29th April, 1617.

[Italian.]

1617.

May 1.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Germania.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**747.** ZORZI GIUSTINIAN, Venetian Ambassador in Germany, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Stodder having received an assignment for his men upon future contributions of the diet, will not leave without it, and that will not be a quick matter. His soldiers are crying out.

Prague, the 1st May, 1617. *Copy.*

[*Italian.*]

May 2.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**748.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I enclose the translation of a letter written by the king of Great Britain to the States General, exhorting them to find some means of settling their religious dissensions. His ambassador performed an office in conformity. The letter has been printed by the party at Amsterdam which is opposed to the Arminians, who did not wish it to be published. However, matters remain undecided and it is thought that ultimately they will decide to summon a synod.

The Hague, the 2nd May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**749.** Letter of the KING of GREAT BRITAIN to the STATES.

When we heard of the heresies and schisms which are rife among you we were moved by our zeal for the Church of God and by our affection for your state to lift a hand to arrest the course of this evil. When we heard that some of your ministers were preaching predestination, we wrote to them to point out how little good could come of such preaching, which only excites by means of arguments too obscure for the common people. But soon afterwards we found that the evil had made still further progress. We feel bound to again urge upon you the imminent danger with which the state is threatened by these unhappy divisions, which we should be sorry to see result in schism and the formation of factions among you. They are the more dangerous as your state is still in its childhood. We beg you in the name of God to put aside these errors which the devil has introduced among you, as the ruin of your state may ensue if you do not provide a remedy by holding fast to the true and ancient doctrine which you have always professed and which is approved by all the reformed churches, while it has formed the principal bond which has so closely united our crown and your provinces for so many years. If the evil be so deeply rooted that it cannot be plucked out so readily, we beg you at least to arrest the danger and use your authority to keep the peace, not allowing those of the true profession to be molested. You might summon a national synod to put an end to these unfortunate differences, and many think this would prove the best way. We doubt not you will shew all necessary zeal.

From our court at Hinchinbroocke, the 20th March, 1617.

Your good friend and ally,

[*Italian.*]

James R.<sup>o</sup>

\* The original French text of this letter is printed in the *Letters from and to Sir Dudley Carleton* at page 122.



1617.  
May 5.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**750.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

By the last news, of the 20th ult., the galleons of Naples have gone to Calamota while our fleet is at Curzola awaiting a favourable opportunity to attack them. We have taken two of their anchors and a Ragusan barque sent to recover them. A barque of Uscocchi has come out of Trieste and done some damage. A raid of 500 horse has been made from Gradisca.

The like to the Imperial Court, Rome, Spain, France, Savoy. Constantinople, Milan, Naples, Florence, Zurich, Coire, Mantua, the Hague.

Ayes 99.  
Noes 0.  
Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

May 6.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**751.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

Our fleet left Curzola on the 26th and approached the galleons of Naples, but could not get nearer than 9 miles off at the mouths of Stagno, owing to contrary winds. On the 28th the wind changed and our ships set out to the attack, but they escaped, it is thought towards Brindisi, but it will soon be known, as they are being pursued. This is for information.

The like to Rome, Germany, France, Spain, Turin, Milan, Naples, Florence, Zurich, Coire, Mantua, the Hague, Constantinople.

Ayes 164.  
Noes 2.  
Neutral 4.

[*Italian.*]

May 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Germania.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**752.** ZORZI GIUSTINIAN, Venetian Ambassador in Germany, to the DOGE and SENATE.

A courier arrived recently from Ferdinand with news of the arrival of the Dutch troops in Istria and a pressing request for help. The Cardinal sent back the courier yesterday with the reply that the troops of His Majesty will be satisfied with the assignment made to Stodder; but there is no way of getting money, although the emperor is writing to Maximilian to obtain a subsidy from the diet at Vienna.

Prague, the 8th May, 1617. *Copy.*

[*Italian.*]

May 9.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**753.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Aerssens has received letters from Bouincaster, councillor of the duke of Wirtemberg, saying with respect to the duke that Monthou got little from his offices, as all the princes and deputies were not agreed to assist before they saw what the king of Great Britain and the States would decide to do. Those who declared

1617.

themselves most ready to help were the Palatine, Wirtemberg and the margrave of Baden, and that M. de Monthou left to come here.

The Hague, the 9th May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

May 11.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**754.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The news of the death of the Marshal of Ancre has been received here with extraordinary satisfaction, as if France being changed thereby the whole course of affairs in Europe would also be changed of necessity, and the career of the Spaniards be checked, who have been pursuing their way towards dominion for some years past. Among the men of greater weight it is thought certain that now the Catholic king has it in his power to decide for peace or for war, he will elect to settle all the differences in Italy in an immediate arrangement, as he got so little advantage out of them while he could depend upon France, and now he has less reason than ever to hope for anything after so notable a change has taken place in that kingdom to his prejudice.

The French ambassador had letters from the Most Christian King in conformity with those which have been sent everywhere else. As he was instructed to notify the court and the reasons for it to the king here, he has performed the office with Winwood, who has written to the king. So far we have not heard what the king said on hearing about it, but the Prince of Wales expressed great joy. The other day when he saw me in his gallery somewhat cast in thought he asked me laughingly if I was melancholy because of the death of the Marshal of Ancre, and if that was so whether he must believe that the news was ill received at Venice also. I replied that as the friendship between the republic and the crown of France was close and of long standing Venice always welcomed anything that the Most Christian King might decide and execute for the benefit of his kingdom, and that we were the more rejoiced at the present accident because the advantage to His Majesty is not an affair of words merely but touches essentials, as the life of that man was the conflagration of France and his death has brought an immediate and evident relief. His Highness agreed in the truth of this, and he was pleased to detain me a little to discuss the event with him and his secretary as well as the other current affairs of the world. He spoke with such prudence and intelligence that really seemed to me most unusual at his age.

Only the household of the Spanish ambassador and his dependents do not approve of the event, and since it is not possible to deny the demerits of the Marshal, they declare that they were not so excessive as the French represent, and even if they had been it was not right to slay him in that way to the peril of his soul, but they ought to have given him time to make his peace with God.

This news seems to have affected even those few affairs which remained alive. Thus Edmondes, who was about to start, will now wait until he receives fresh orders from the king, because he must have new instructions for his embassy. Sir [John] Digby, who was going to Spain, is doing the same after delaying his departure

1617.

for a month. More important than all the rest, I know that this same Edmondes, who is very strongly opposed to the Spanish marriage, and is ambitious that an alliance should be concluded with France by his means, immediately went to call upon the French ambassador resident here, who is equally anxious to acquire the merit with his king. They discussed setting on foot negotiations for a French marriage in competition with the one with Spain. If they are joined, as I feel sure they will be, by the Secretary Winwood and Lord Hay (*Eis*), it will be no difficult matter to re-introduce the negotiations with better hope of success than before owing to the change in the opinions of those in the government on the other side. With regard to this I will keep a sharp look out. I ought to inform your Excellencies that Edmondes recently remarked to a person in my confidence with regard to Digby going to Spain, that he was not disturbed about that because even if he went he would do nothing, and that the king of England is really obliged to let him go because the Spaniards have sent such pressing invitations that he could not refuse to listen to them without causing great offence.

The negotiations about the war against the pirates continue to progress, and up to the present the merchants have found 160,000 crowns to start it. But there are difficulties which many consider insuperable; among them being this, that no power, however friendly to England, will grant their ports to so large a fleet, and it will not be safe or possible for it to remain continually on the high seas. The other is that if the pirates give in for the time being and remain in the ports of Africa while this fleet is at large, and then return to sea when it withdraws, the money will be thrown away and the undertaking will prove fruitless and ridiculous. This makes me believe that they intend here rather to enrich themselves upon the ships and country of the Turk, and my suspicions are increased by the ideas which circulate among the Levant merchants, who wish the recall of the English ambassador at Constantinople, who is chosen by them and is supported at their charges, since it is no longer necessary to keep him because they no longer have any trade in those parts. I understand that they have given him licence for the very time that this fleet will be at sea provided they continue to form it.

The king remains sixty miles from the frontiers of Scotland, and is staying at Newcastle longer than he intended, partly on account of the very bad weather which has rendered the roads impassable and also because a quantity of his baggage, which left a week ago in two ships, cannot arrive there at the appointed time. The parliament of that kingdom will meet in the middle of next month, and the people there have granted 80,000 crowns to His Majesty as a welcome to him.

I have received your Excellencies' letters of the 8th and 14th ult.

London, the 11th May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

1617.

May 11.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.

Dispacci dagli  
Ambasciatori  
in Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**755.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the INQUISITORS of STATE.

Having received your letters of 14 April I reported to Sir [William] Smith the conclusion of the matter of the loan. He was completely satisfied. The same day I received the sheet of the new testimonies adopted by Sig. Muscornio. With this despatch I send some sheets of the examination of Sig. Foscarini. I ask you to believe that the delay is due to the difficulty in obtaining the evidence rather than to my desire to shirk trouble. In the future I anticipate that this difficulty will increase, as it will be necessary to approach greater persons, who are not so easily dealt with.

From London, the 11 May, 1617.

[Italian.]

May 18.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Constant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**756.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The English ambassador, accompanied by the English gentleman who recently came from their Court, has been to kiss the hands of His Majesty. They presented their king's letter upon the matters already reported. It had previously been arranged with the Pasha that they should read a document upon that occasion, in which they should state all their grievances. However, on the evening before the audience the Pasha sent for the ambassador and told him that he had come to the conclusion that it would be better not to read any document to His Majesty for fear lest the late Caimecam, against whom the complaints were directed, should be present and be provoked to say something to the prejudice of the cause, and which would displease the Grand Turk. He therefore advised him to put both the letter and the particulars of the affair in a bag and present them to His Majesty. The Pasha promised that they should be read and that his affair would succeed best in this way. The proposal did not satisfy the ambassador, who suspected that it was a device of the Caimecam to escape the scorn which would have fallen upon him if the information had been read in his presence. However he submitted to necessity, accepted the Pasha's proposal, and on the following day the ambassador and gentleman with two dragomans went to the king, all four being dressed alike. After they had kissed His Majesty's hand, a dragoman on behalf of the gentleman stated that he had been sent by his king with a letter, while the other dragoman explained the affair for which they had come. They then presented the letter and the particulars together and took leave. No sooner had they gone than the king sent the bag with the letter and particulars to the Pasha, charging him to return them with a translation. As a translation had already been made, he simply returned the bag as it was to the Grand Turk, who, after inspecting the contents, asked the Pasha to give his opinion, as ruled by justice and his greatness. The Pasha replied that the gentleman had been sent for other affairs but chiefly to complain about the money which the late Caimecam had made an English merchant pay, and that a great wrong had really been done to the merchant. This reply has not yet been reported to the king, because the Pasha does not think the moment favourable, owing to bad news of the Cossacks. All this tends to prejudice*

1617.

*the affair, as when negotiations are allowed to grow cold they rarely result successfully.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 13th May, 1617.

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

May 15.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**757.** PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

It is stated that eight of the galleys present with the fleet in the strait of Gibraltar have received orders to go and join the forces of Naples. However these reports are not believed, as the shipping in these seas is at present enormously infested by the pirates, and if they weakened the fleet more, it would remain entirely in the power of these buccaneers. Only recently ten pirate ships passed through the Strait in full view of the royal fleet, which never moved and did not even fire a shot at them.

Madrid, the 15th May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

May 15.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**758.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

From Germany, the Senator Montu writes that the free towns did not wish to take part in the diet of Embrun to help the duke, but the princes desired to do so and had sent to England and the States for this purpose.

News is hourly expected from Berne and of the effecting of the levies, but they say that they only wish to use them for defence.

The count of Scarnafis has arrived from England, but he brings nothing but the usual coldness and no imaginable hope or grounds to go upon.

Chieri, the 15th May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

May 16.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**759.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Two days after I sent my last I saw the English ambassador, who asked me if I had heard anything about a letter of Count John Ernest upon the authority of Don Giovanni de' Medici in the camp. Although I knew everything I pretended that I was not advised of all, in order to make him speak. He said he understood that some difficulties had arisen, but Prince Maurice had written a good letter to Count John Ernest. In discussing this dispute the same ambassador said I greatly fear that the general artifices of the Spaniards are more practicable in Italy than elsewhere, and I am afraid that M. de Leon, the French ambassador, who is very intimate with the Ambassador of Spain, has used some means of suggesting to the count the question of his honour and similar things.

The Hague, the 16th May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

1617.

May 16.

Senato.

Secreta.

Dispacci.

Signori Stati.

Venetian

Archives.

**760.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Sir [Thomas] Stodder has again asked Pasini to give him 200 ducats to make the journey. He promises to serve for his original pay. The duke of Parma is said to have made him liberal offers, but he replied as he had frequently done before, so that Stodder is simply anxious to carry out his offer, but I do not see how he can do anything without money.

The Hague, the 16th May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

May 16.

Senato.

Secreta.

Dispacci.

Signori Stati.

Venetian

Archives.

**761.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The longer the delay in providing a remedy for the religious differences the greater becomes the folly of the fanatics in not recognising their own hurt. Delay becomes ever more dangerous. The people do not seem inclined to bear with it any longer. The deputies meet every day. Some agree with the opinion of the king of Great Britain about summoning a synod, but there are some, who do not wish to give an opening to the clergy, who are holding back. Finally it was proposed to invite four of the leading theologians from France, England, the Palatine, the Swiss and Grisons to deliberate with others of the country upon the subject, but it is not known if this will be done. His Highness thought of making a tour to review the troops of the country, but he will not leave because he fears that something serious may happen.

The Hague, the 16th May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

May 19.

Collegio.

Secreta.

Lettere.

Venetian

Archives.

**762.** To the AMBASSADOR at the IMPERIAL COURT.

The galleys of Naples are gathering at Brindisi. Our admiral is following them and on the 1st instant was within cannon shot of the port with flags flying and sails spread. Seeing that they did not accept his challenge to come out, he put to sea, going to provision the fleet and await reinforcements. We hear from Naples that 19 galleys have left for Sicily.

Some skirmishing has taken place in Istria.

The like to

Rome. Zurich.

France. Coire.

Spain. The Hague.

Turin. London.

Milan. Constantinople.

Florence. Naples.

Ayes 19.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

1617.  
May 20.  
Senato.  
Terra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**763.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.

We are entirely satisfied with your diligence, and in consideration of the expenses which you have to incur and as a sign how much we value your services, we have decided that 300 ducats be paid to you as a gift.

Ayes 136.  
Noes 7.  
Neutral 16.

On the 13th April in the Cabinet :

Ayes 17.  
Noes 1.  
Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

May 21.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**764.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador at Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*Since the extraordinary naval preparations of the duke of Ossuna have become known here they have come to the conclusion that they are aimed against the Grand Turk or his friends. The Pasha sent for me the day before yesterday to say that he had given orders to the Captain of the sea to prevent that fleet from inflicting any damage upon their empire or upon the dominions of your Serenity. He showed me the orders. I thanked him warmly for this remarkable act of courtesy.*

*The Pasha recently told the English ambassador in some connection that his master is the good friend of the republic, and will always be ready to give them a hundred of his armed galleys if they wish it.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 21st May, 1617.

[*Italian ; deciphered.*]

May 23.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**765.** OTTAVIANO BON and VINCENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Last Wednesday, after mid-day, the king gave us audience. We went to the Louvre and while awaiting our summons we followed the example of the nuncio and all the other ambassadors and went to visit M. Luynes, who is now the prime favourite at Court.

Paris, the 23rd May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

May 23.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**766.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The English ambassador has been on purpose to recommend the consideration of giving help to Savoy to M. Barneveldt. In this matter he acted as far as possible in conjunction with the agent of the Prince Palatine. So far as can be ascertained, they will almost certainly help, but I gather that they will pay down at once a certain sum of money which will serve for provision, before deciding more at leisure upon some monthly subsidy. They wish to see if there is

1617.

any likelihood of an accommodation, and they will decide according to events.

The Hague, the 23rd May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

May 23.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**767.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Ambassador Wotton writes to the Ambassador Carleton here that Count John Ernest had said he would obey Don Giovanni provided the orders, whether given by word of mouth or in writing, were so expressed that they should apparently come from the Senate or from the Generalissimo, but that so far nothing has been settled. Carleton himself explained this part of the letter to me.

The Hague, the 23rd May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

May 23.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**768.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Secretary at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Viceroy is sending troops to Apulia and continues to forward provisions to Brindisi; and it is said that he will increase his fleet by arming three or four English and Flemish ships which have arrived at this port; so it seems that they are bent upon war.

Naples, the 23rd May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

May 23.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**769.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Secretary at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

An English ship laden with munitions for Venice has been detained at Messina, although they say that they are for the service of the duke of Savoy.

Naples, the 23rd May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

May 24.  
Cons. di X.  
Parti  
Secreta.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**770.** That the Savii of the Cabinet be informed that it has come to the knowledge of our Council that on the 26th April last, an Englishman named Sebastian Pessicott, who used to write reports, was beaten and ill-treated at the house of the French ambassador by those of the household, of which he died on the 23rd inst., and it is believed that this took place by order of the said ambassador.

Ayes 11.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]



1617.  
May 25.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

771. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Three days ago the king was to enter Berwick, the first town of Scotland, and to-morrow or the day after he will enter Edinburgh, the capital, where he will pass the greater time of his stay, and thence forward we shall hear some news of what arises from his operations in that kingdom. The news of the death of the Marshal of Ancre reached him while he was at Newcastle, and about to dine. He heard it with the utmost satisfaction, imparted it to those who were present in some pregnant phrases, and ordered that all who were present should drink with him to the health of the Most Christian King and to the success of his glorious undertakings. He immediately sent a courier to the Council here, to inform them of the feelings with which he had heard the news, and he ordered the Secretary Winwood to reply to the office made with him by the French ambassador with expressions of great joy and to loudly praise the king of France for having come to a decision so profitable for his service. He also directed Sir [Thomas] Edmondes to leave immediately upon his destined journey to France, reducing the instructions which he previously had in favour of the princes to simple compliments, while exalting the king and encouraging him to continue in the same road and to endeavour, even if some difficulties still remained between His Majesty and the princes more troublesome to arrange, to smooth them away, so that the princes should remain secure, satisfied and re-established in their former charges and honours. At the same time the king instructed him to draw the attention of the Most Christian King to the perilous situation of the duke of Savoy, and to assist the interests of that prince with His Majesty as much as possible. I know this from Edmondes's own lips and from the Secretary Winwood. With the latter Biondi made an office that commissions of such a nature should be delivered to Edmondes and other instructions in favour of the affairs of His Highness to Digby, who is going to Spain. Winwood replied that so far as Edmondes was concerned he had already received in writing all that could be desired in this matter, and he knows that he will do it very well, because he is of our party, *but with Digby it is useless to do so, because no matter what instructions might be given to him he certainly would do nothing that would not result to the advantage of the Spaniards.* Winwood told him this in confidence, because it is actually the truth, the bias of Digby to the Spanish side being patent to all; and subsequently there has been some dispute between them on the question of the marriage; as Digby and the Spanish ambassador introduced the negotiations and they have so stuffed the king with hopes between them that the matter has been brought to the advanced state which your Excellencies are aware of.

In this affair they finally excluded, by the royal command, the archbishop of Canterbury, Winwood, Edmondes and Lord Hay (*Es*) because they were all opposed to it, and they also excluded Lord Wotton, brother of the ambassador, although he depends absolutely upon the Spanish party. The other day a dispute arose in the Council, in which high words passed between Edmondes and Digby

1617.

upon these affairs, arising out of the recent events in France, which were greatly condemned by Digby. After they left the Council the quarrel grew warmer, sharp words passing between them, but they were afterwards appeased, chiefly by the departure of Edmondes.\* This took place on Monday, and it is to be hoped that he has crossed the sea safely by now.

I find that the Secretary Winwood, although strongly opposed to the Spanish marriage, is nevertheless not in favour of one with France, and in general all the English abhor the idea, in memory of their ancient enmity with that nation. He would prefer the prince to take a subject, for which he advances the example of other English kings who have contracted alliances with the most noble families of England. He says that neither Spain nor France can give so large a dower to the prince in ready money as this people will provide if he takes one of themselves, and in this way the door will be shut upon all the disadvantages which may arise to these states by the introduction of a foreign woman (*vado scoprendo che il Secretario Vinut anchorchè contrariissimo al matrimonio Spagnuolo, non inclina punto però a quello con Francia, si come in General l'abborriscono tutti li Inglesi, memori delle antiche inimicitie che hanno havuto con quella natione, ma vorrebbe egli più tosto, che il Prencipe si appigliasse ad una suddita, adducendo l'esempio d'altri Re Inglesi che si sonno apparentati con famiglie nobilissime dell'Inghilterra, dicendo che ne Spagna ne Franza potrà dar tanta dotte al Prencipe in contanti quanta ne darà questo popolo se prende una de sue, et così si tenera chiusa la porta a tutti quei inconvenienti che con donna straniera potessero introdursi in questi stati*).

*Upon this point Winwood himself said the other day that although he took no part in the negotiations and the mission of Digby, yet the king had told him all the particulars about it, and certainly Digby had no authority to conclude but only to listen, and to negotiate superficially and then return to England, and he hoped he would possess sufficient judgment not to overstep his authority.*

The king has sent to ask for money, as since his departure he has spent about 400,000 crowns up to now the greater part in presents to the lords who are accompanying him, to put themselves in trim, 10,000 to one, 20,000 to another, 30,000 to a third and 40,000 to a fourth. Edmondes received 25,000 to go to France and Digby 30,000 in money and about 100,000 in land. He is going with a very great company of cavaliers and other people.

The negotiations for a war against the pirates have almost entirely fallen through, chiefly upon the point that the merchants will not incur the expense unless they have facilities for obtaining men and ships which the king will not grant, as he wishes the disposition to remain in the hands of himself and his ministers.

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\* Mr. Comptroller [Edmondes] . . . sets out this day towards France carrying letters of congratulation from the king for the good issues of the late blow there [the murder of Conoini], which is so generally allowed that he is held for more than half Spanish that doth any way contradict it, and so much in a manner in plain terms, did Mr Comptroller tell Mr. Vice Chamberlain [Digby] in good company, as they were in dispute of it, and but for Mr. Secretary, it was doubted they had proceeded further Chamberlain to Carleton, May 10, 1617 o.s. Birgh; *Court and Times of James I.*, ii. pp. 9, 10.

1617.

I have received your Serenity's letters of the 21st and 28th April and the 5th May with the news of current affairs concerning your Serenity and the duke of Savoy. Here they never speak about them except out of curiosity, and it is unlikely that there will be any opportunity of treating about them to any advantage for some time to come, at any rate before September next when the king will return to England. I am bound to humbly represent to your Excellencies how much it will assist your interests if His Majesty meets with an ambassador of yours here on his return, just as he would be dissatisfied at not finding one after an interval of sixteen months. I have already heard some murmurs that so great a delay is not taken in good part, especially in such times and while His Majesty is keeping an ambassador at Venice.

London, the 25th May, 1617.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

May 28.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Svizzeri.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**772.** PIETRO VICO, Venetian Secretary with the Swiss, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Bernese have replied to the English ambassador that if the duke of Savoy will renounce his pretensions to the Vaud, they will help him with 8,000 men, to be paid for four months, and do whatever else they are able. The ambassador has hitherto refused to entertain the offer, and is waiting to hear from His Highness, but he is allowing the captains to be nominated. He has also suggested a league between the duke and the Bernese, and the articles presented have mostly been agreed upon. There is one, however, in which His Highness asks that the league shall be offensive and defensive, and that they shall assist him until he has recovered all his places which are in the hands of the Spaniards; but the Bernese will not agree, saying that they were occupied before the confederation was concluded to maintain Savoy and Piedmont, and the places which he has taken in Montferrat are also excepted. This is the only point which presents a difficulty in the formation of a league.

Zurich, the 28th May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

May 30.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**773.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*Your Serenity has previously heard from me about the 80,000 crowns wrongfully levied of an English merchant and the complaints laid about it, and that the Grand Vizier, when asked his opinion, gave it in favour of the Englishman. His Majesty accordingly gave orders for justice to be done; nevertheless nearly a fortnight has passed since this order was issued and the ambassador has asked the Pasha to carry it out, but so far not a sign of its execution has appeared. This arises partly from the coldness of the Pasha, as he is not warmed to it by the interested parties, as he should be, and partly from the fear of the dragomans of the ambassador, lest one day the Caimecam should obtain authority and influence and pour all the water over their backs. Accordingly the*

1617.

*affair is postponed from day to day. However, the ambassador and the dragomans pressed strongly this morning in the Diran for their cause to be dealt with. The Pasha turned towards the Caimecam and told him that the king recognised the justice of the complaint and that he must obey, so he must make up his mind. He therefore told the dragomans to get the ambassador to come to his house, when he would give him satisfaction. It is thought that this is an artifice to gain time, as he hopes either to silence the affair or to postpone it until the Grand Vizier proceeds to Asia, when he hopes to be declared lieutenant and then he can make the world move to suit himself.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 30th May, 1617.

[*Italian ; deciphered.*]

May 30.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**774.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Extraordinary English ambassador<sup>o</sup> has tried to obtain from Their Highnesses the punishment of Puteanus (*Potiano*), who wrote the famous libel against the king, or else to ask that he might be delivered up. It is said that he will negotiate some point about the affair of Cleves, and Juliers; but it is expected that he will obtain very little satisfaction upon either point and fine words and liberal promises are worth nothing since Puteanus (*Potriano*) has fled, and as for Wesel it will not apparently be given up so easily as was thought, since the Marquis Spinola in his travels about may go to see that place and give orders for the perfecting of the works for its defence.

The Hague, the 30th May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

May 30.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**775.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Secretary at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

His Excellency has given orders for the preparation [in Sicily] of six ships and six companies of infantry. But only one ship is ready. Orders have been issued to detain all the ships now in that kingdom in order to select the best, but a great many immediately escaped to be free from such a design. Confirmatory reports reach me from my correspondents at Messina and the Consul Burcelloni at Palermo, who advises me weekly of what is taking place. Meanwhile I can assure your Serenity that this armament of Sicily, even if it takes place, will be of little consequence because the ships now there are all Flemish and English bertonns under the usual size, and Don Francesco de Castro has not the means to supply them with bronze artillery.

Naples, the 30th May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

1617.  
May 30.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**776.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Secretary at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The nineteen galleys of Don Pedro di Leva reached Brindisi on the 22nd inst. On the following day, seeing a sail at sea, they set out to reconnoitre and fight it, but as they did not return to port that night my informant could not tell me what ship it was. From another source I learn that it was an English ship, laden with salt and other things at Corfu for Venice. However, I expect to hear more fully.

The four *fustarelle* or long barques will leave with the four feluccas and a smaller one under the command of a certain Captain Robert, an Englishman. It is said that they are certainly going to Brindisi. A large ship is lading biscuits and other munitions for the same place.

Naples, the 30th May, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 2.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**777.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

The Dutch troops have been stationed at Monfalcone; they show great promise. They were to take the field on the 31st ult. The galleons of Naples are at Brindisi; augmented to twelve. They are said to be expecting a reinforcement of 19 galleys from Naples, but these have suffered at sea and are uncertain what to do. Our fleet sailed to Bestice without Ossuna's ships stirring and then retired to victual between Curzola and Liesina. They took a royal frigate going to Ragusa. A barque of the Uscocchi, favoured by Ossuna, captured a ship of ours which had only just left the port of Brindisi. There has been some raiding on both sides in Istria. We have sent General Bellegno to take up his charge immediately, and we have directed the Commissioner Molin to take up the command of the light fleet until the Proveditore General arrives. Don Pedro has gone with the royal army to besiege Vercelli; the duke is preparing to meet him.

The like to the Imperial Court, the Hague, Rome, France, Spain, Constantinople, Naples, Florence, Zurich, Coire, Savoy, Mantua.

The like to Milan except the last sentence.

Ayes 155.

Noes 1.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

June 2.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**778.** To the SECRETARY SURIAN at the HAGUE.

If nothing more than the consideration of 200 ducats for the journey detains Stodder (*Studer*) from setting out, you may arrange for the advance of the money to him, to be deducted from the first payments made to him, as he seems to wish, and you will ask him to leave immediately.

Ayes 156.

Noes 2.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

1617.

June 3.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Svizzeri.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**779.** PIETRO VICO, Venetian Secretary with the Swiss, to the DOGE and SENATE.

There is no news about the duke of Savoy ratifying the offer made to him by the Bernese of 3,000 men for four months. The captains are nominated, and will be ready in a few days. It is said that the English ambassador has left Berne for Turin to obtain the consent of His Highness immediately, and also to settle some points upon the proposed league, which is not considered settled, as the Bernese have not written anything here.

Zurich, the 3rd June, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 5.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Germania.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**780.** ZORZI GIUSTINIAN, Venetian Ambassador in Germany, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Princes of the Assembly have written a very sharp reply to His Majesty's letter warning them not to proceed further in the confirmation of the union, saying that they have been compelled by circumstances to prorogue it but for two years only to see if His Majesty will keep his promises contained in his own letters, which they will be obliged to publish; that they took the oath to His Majesty and not to the pope and the king of Spain, with whom they have nothing to do.

It is said that the principal object of the Assembly was to oppose the design of electing a king of the Romans, as they seem strongly against Ferdinand, and with respect to helping Savoy they have sent an ambassador to England and the States to know first what they intend to do.

Prague, the 5th June, 1617. *Copy.*

[*Italian.*]

June 5.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**781.** OTTAVIANO BON, Venetian Ambassador in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Four days ago Edmondes arrived, who previously was ordinary ambassador for the king of Great Britain. He comes with the title of extraordinary ambassador, but with the intention of remaining here for some months. Accordingly he refused the usual honours of lodging and expenses of extraordinary ambassadors to the Court. He did not obtain audience before to-day, and that was only complimentary. When he begins the serious negotiations for which he has commissions, I will not fail to advise your Excellencies.

Paris, the 5th June, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 6.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**782.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

It seems that the Princes of the Union have not come to any decision about helping Savoy except that they will assist the duke. They want to know what England and the States will do before

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they embark on an affair of so much importance. It is known that the king of Great Britain cannot be expected to do so much as he should because he has so little money. Some would like, if the war continues, to establish a general league, to include your Serenity.

The Hague, the 6th June, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 6.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**783.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I was informed that Count Giovanni Giacomo Belgioioso was about to go to England and would pass this way. When I heard of his arrival I let him know that I should like to see him, and he came to call on me. He offered his services to our republic, for which I thanked him.

The Hague, the 6th June, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 6.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**784.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Secretary at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

From Messina I hear that they are preparing to arm four vessels there, two are being fitted and two English, which they obliged to unload\*; four others are to be armed at Palermo, but the consul there does not tell me what is their quality.

Naples, the 6th June, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra  
Venetian  
Archives.

**785.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The king has been received in Scotland with such joy and in so honourable a fashion by the nobility in particular that the English who accompanied him write back marvels home, saying they never could have imagined that the resources of the country or the riches of the nobles would extend so far. The lower classes, who do not so easily practise dissimulation, do not look upon the English too favourably, and show themselves somewhat sullen. The Privy Council of Scotland has admitted the Earl of Buckingham to its numbers, an honour never previously granted to any Englishman. This has gratified His Majesty exceedingly, as he desires that every favour may be heaped upon this person and that he may rise to all the most eminent positions.

I received information some days ago that as regards the public affairs for the arrangement of which His Majesty has gone to those parts, the king is daily learning how little the Scots are inclined to fall in with his ideas, and he therefore proposes to sweeten the bitter for them by some concessions which will please them, and which they

\* There is a statement among the papers of the Public Record Office, by Ralph Freeman and Richard Goodlade, of the seizure by Ossuna of the ships *William and Ralph*, and *Delight* in June, 1617. *State Papers, Foreign, Savoy and Naples*, 3 March, 1617 o.s.

1617.

have long desired, so that by such means he may the more easily introduce his plans to the parliament. But to-day I have heard of a certain rumour by new letters from Scotland, that the king, fearing that he may meet with some repulse in the parliament, is thinking of countermanding it, and not to attempt there what may be rejected, to his great annoyance and disservice. I cannot give your Excellencies this last point as certain, but if it be true, you shall have the confirmation in the next despatch.

Letters reached the king's ministers here two days ago from Spain from His Majesty's agent resident there, announcing the arrival of the Imperial ambassador at the Court, and that he had immediately begun the negotiations for peace between the four princes with such good hopes of success that there was no one who did not think the matter as good as settled. Whatever the truth may be, your Excellencies will have full knowledge at this moment, but I thought it worthy of remark, as the Spanish ambassador, who has never previously been to see me, came a week ago twice to visit me. The first time, although I was not at home, he dismounted and waited awhile in the garden; the second time, when I was in, he stayed little less than an hour conversing with me, and as he is reputed to be one of the most sagacious men of his nation, I cannot believe that the words which he said to me were entirely fortuitous. He approached the subject in a round about way, and started to speak about the government of Spain, from which, he said, very faulty decisions were daily proceeding, and that its preservation and increase ought rather to be attributed to the grace of God, owing to the undefiled religion which they profess, and their scrupulous obedience to the pope, than to the wisdom of the Council, which when driven by necessity, did perform miracles, but for the rest, is governed by so many private interests that serious mistakes are made. By way of example he instanced the action of the two last governors of Milan, Mendoza, and Toledo, blaming them excessively for having made war on the duke with an army which had been raised for his defence. As against that prince the Catholic king stood to lose a great deal and to gain little; for even supposing that His Majesty acquired some addition to his states he would be constrained to undergo one of two evils, either to restore to the duke what they had taken from him with so many armies and so much gold, or to retain it and earn the name of tyrant. He spoke as freely as this. He afterwards described the duke of Ossuna to me as a merry Andrew, narrating some jests which were made at the Court when he was chosen Viceroy in Sicily, and he concluded by saying that if the viceroys and governors of the states of the Catholic king did not cherish the hope that their errors would be supported in Spain by their friends and relations, they would either proceed more cautiously in assuming an authority which does not belong to them, or they would lose their heads. He continued to speak for a long time in this strain without coming to any particular point of current affairs, only on leaving he prayed that God would grant peace. I can report little to your Serenity of my replies, because I tried to make them so scanty and general that they might have no substance.



1617.

The Secretary Winwood has learned recently by letters from Germany and Holland what the princes think about the king here with regard to deciding to help the duke of Savoy. He clearly recognises that His Majesty is gaining little honour by doing nothing for that prince, and accordingly he is thinking of contriving some remedy and making some small demonstration *motu proprio* for his assistance, such as new munitions, or something similar. He has spoken about it to Biondi, but discouraged by the difficulties he has decided to wait until letters come from Piedmont, either to the king or to Biondi, with the help of which he may more readily be able to incite His Majesty and the Council.

The French ambassador has informed Winwood of the strong representations which the Most Christian King has made to the duke of Monteleone, and that he has sent to Spain in conformity, so that his ambassador should do the like to the Catholic king, telling them that His Most Christian Majesty is resolved to insist upon disarmament and that the treaty of Asti be executed. That in addition to what he has said he has begun to act by gathering together the horse of the provinces in the neighbourhood of Lyons, so that in case of need he can make them descend upon Piedmont without loss of time, and he has given orders to the governor to shut his eyes to the passing of the French troops who have been levied for the service of His Highness.

The extraordinary ambassador Bennet (*Bonet*), who went to Flanders about the book,<sup>o</sup> writes that he has been warmly welcomed and nobly entertained, but upon the principal affair he sees no hope of obtaining anything to satisfy the king here, wherefore there is no doubt but that the king will be highly offended when he hears of it, not only against the archduke but against the Spaniards also, as he well knows that everything depends upon them.

A person has passed through here sent by the king of Denmark to find His Majesty in Scotland, without the reason being known, but it is understood at the same time that the king of Denmark has put to sea with three ships and a pinnace, without letting it be known whither he was going, which gives rise to the belief that he intends to visit England for the third time or to go himself to meet His Majesty in Scotland. This, however, is all conjecture, although the truth will soon appear.

I have received your Serenity's letters of the 6th and 19th May with the news of the valour shown by your Excellencies' fleet in making the Neapolitan galleys withdraw, an action which has been highly praised by all.

London, the 8th June, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**786.** That the ambassador of the Most Christian King be summoned to the Cabinet and the following be read to him :

We thank His Majesty for his good wishes to our republic, and we congratulate him upon the success of his government, which

\*The *Corona regia* of Puteanus.

1617.

will prove most advantageous to Christendom. We ask your Excellency to offer our thanks to the king. In response to the confidence shown to us we have to state that a courier has at length arrived from Spain with the replies. Our ambassador Gritti had brought the negotiations to a promising position and expected to be met in a similar spirit when the duke of Lerma by excluding the point of mutual disarmament as regards Savoy and by insisting that we should make restitution before the archduke fulfilled his promises, brought matters to a desperate pass, protesting that the affair was as good as broken off by the arrival of the Dutch, who were of alien religion and rebels, and that his king was consequently absolved from his promises. The Secretary Arosteghi afterwards somewhat smoothed this harshness, but stated that his king wished to be at liberty to accept or no even if the proposals were accepted by the republic and Savoy. At the same time orders were issued at Court for reinforcements by land and sea and for fresh undertakings against us and Savoy. All this shows the intentions of the Spaniards and it would be as well for His Majesty to use his influence and declare his opinion without delay. We beg your Excellency to make these representations to His Majesty, showing the urgent need and the important considerations involved.

Ayes 148.

Noes 3.

Neutral 7.

[Italian.]

June 9.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**787.** It was proposed to pass an office with the English ambassador similar to the preceding one, with the following beginning:

Sig. Ambassador,

Whereas in present circumstances it is fitting and necessary to continue the confidence which we have always practised with His Majesty, and which is due because of his greatness and the interest he has always taken in the affairs of this province, we have sent for your Excellency to inform you of what our courier from Spain brings upon these affairs. Our Ambassador Gritti, etc.

We have also done the same by expressly sending our Resident Lionello to His Majesty.

In response to the requests proffered by your Excellency we have readily ordered the release of the horses and written the letters for the Earl of Oxford which you desired, and we shall always be ready to do anything to please you.

[Italian.]

June 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**788.** To the AMBASSADOR in France and at the other Courts and to the PROVEDITORE and GENERAL on either side of the Menzo.

A courier has arrived from Spain with various letters from the 25th April to the 17th May. Our Ambassador Gritti yielded many points to the duke of Lerma, the Secretary Arosteghi and Chefniler.

1617.

The last confined himself to general terms; while the others came to particulars upon the affairs of the republic and Savoy. They asserted that the republic had not kept the treaty of Vienna and had been the first to attack, and that, therefore, she ought to be the first to make restitution, and the archduke would then gradually fulfil his obligations, and would thus deprive us of all we have obtained by the expenditure of so much blood and treasure to rid ourselves of this pest. Moreover experience shows that we can place no confidence in promises, which have always been broken. These two also would only consent to the expulsion of ten or twelve Uscocchi.

As regards Savoy, Lerma would not listen to any proposal for mutual disarmament, which is the principal point. They are increasing reinforcements by land and sea, sending royal galleys to help Ossuna and fly the royal standard against us, send additional troops to help Ferdinand and increase their forces on our Lombard frontiers. During the two years that they have kept up this state of affairs the Spaniards have had no other aim but to exhaust both of us, prepare the way for themselves and lull to sleep those who might and should oppose their preponderance. We enclose a letter from Ossuna to the Catholic king, in which he proposes to bring the Turkish forces against us. The chief pretext employed by the duke of Lerma is the arrival of Dutch troops here, which he claims absolves his king from all treaties, while the Secretary Arostigli claimed that his king wished to have the liberty to accept or no at his pleasure. Such has been the course of the negotiations at the Catholic Court.

We enclose a copy of the office passed by us with the ambassador here and we direct you to ask for audience and to lay these matters before His Majesty leaving nothing undone to show our inclination towards peace. You will add that in the present conjuncture of affairs an immediate decision and a powerful remedy are necessary, and that Italy can only hope for this from the Most Christian crown and it will not redound to His Majesty's honour to allow the liberty and tranquillity of this province to suffer, while its fall would increase the great dominion of the Spaniards.

The republic is straining every nerve at sea, and our forces are prospering in Friuli in spite of Spanish help to the enemy. We continue to send money to Savoy and we have to defend our Lombard frontier. We can do no more, and we cannot oppose the Spaniards single handed. We beg His Majesty to declare in favour of our cause, and that alone will give pause to the Spaniards. We perform these offices in conjunction with the duke of Savoy, with whose ambassador you will act in concert. As we need further troops to defend Lombardy you will press for decisive orders in our favour in the Grisons. You will speak to the same effect to the Lords of the Council and especially to the princes, who are better disposed. You will do whatever is possible to secure the favour of the duke of Mayenne.

This affair is pressing and requires all your quickness, decision and zeal.

Ayes 148.

Noes 3.

Neutral 7.

1617.

That the above be sent to the secretary in England, '*mutatis mutandis*,' except the particulars about the Grisons and Mayenne, and that he be directed to pass an office in conformity with the prince of Wales and then proceed immediately to the king, sending an account of the expenses.

The following also shall be sent to him.

You will communicate everything immediately to the prince of Wales and then set out to find the king, making the same communication to him. You will add that in the state of affairs an immediate decision is imperative, and powerful remedies, and that it behoves His Majesty's honour and interest to employ his power and influence against the Spanish preponderance.

[*Italian.*]

June 9.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni  
Venetian  
Archives.

### 789. To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

On the 22nd ult. 19 galleys and 12 galleons of Naples arrived at Brindisi and they were awaiting four *fustarelle* and four feluccas under an English captain, also sent from Naples. To-day we learn that these ships have reached Porto Sta. Croce. Our fleet is at Liesena waiting to be reinforced by the galleys of Candia, two galeasses and two armed ships from this city and a galleon to be sent shortly. Orders were given in Sicily to arm six ships for Spain, but they could not manage this. The duke of Ossuna is endeavouring to incite the Turks to attack Candia and yet he is shocked at the Dutch in our service. Our troops in Friuli have crossed the Lisonzo and gained some successes, in which General Traumestorf was slain. The enemy are fleeing and many surrender, while some have joined us. We have captured sixty devastators sent from Gradisca, probably because of scarcity of provisions.

The like to the following :

|                 |                 |            |
|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Imperial Court. | Savoy.          | Naples.    |
| Rome.           | Constantinople. | the Hague. |
| Spain.          | Milan.          | Coire.     |
| France.         | Florence.       | Zurich.    |
|                 | Mantua.         |            |

Ayes 94.

Noes 1.

Neutrals 2.

[*Italian.*]

June 9.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni  
Venetian  
Archives.

### 790. To the KING of ENGLAND.

We have sent an express courier to direct our Resident Lionello to inform your Majesty of what has taken place upon these affairs of Spain and of the turn given by the ministers there to the negotiations with various other particulars which we have thought fit to lay before your Majesty. Your prudence will recognise the importance of the occasion and how very necessary is a resolute decision and how much your great influence is needed. We beg to express our high esteem for your Majesty, wishing you long and prosperous years.

Ayes 157.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

1617.

June 9.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**791.** To the Resident SURIAN at the HAGUE.

You will obtain audience of the States and Prince Maurice and inform them of the present condition of our negotiations with Spain, and you will particularly observe the replies which they make.

We desire you to cherish the closest understanding with the English ambassador, communicating to him the affair of Spain, of which we have informed the king his master, telling him that we place great reliance upon his friendship and beg him to make such representations to His Majesty as the general interests demand, and as His Majesty's honour requires.

Ayes 157.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[Italian.]

June 10.

Collegio.  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**792.** The ambassador of England was sent for to the Cabinet, and the deliberation of the Senate of the 9th inst. was read to him, and re-read at his request. He then said:

I thank you for the communication, and will report it to His Majesty. Although he has gone to Scotland on very important affairs to stay there for some time, he has given orders that news shall be sent on to him at once, so that his absence may not delay the affairs, only six days being spent in going and receiving the replies.

I propose to deal with a matter that occurs to my poor wit. It cannot be denied that the king of Spain is powerful, the master of many realms, great forces and numerous peoples. His ministers all seek to increase his power. He who has most runs most risks. The world is moved by various powers and motives. In the natural world we see the powers balanced. This appears in the heavens, the elements being proportioned for the preservation of the human race. So it is among princes, and if any one tries to subdue another he should certainly get into trouble. I feel sure that your Serenity will receive a satisfactory reply from my king, who recognizes the undoubted justice of your cause.

I have something to impart in exchange for the confidences made to me. The princes of Germany have finished their meeting at Heidelberg with the intervention of Bergeroti, ambassador of the States. M. de Monthou (*Montu*), the ambassador of Savoy, had two audiences. He was given a seat with the representative of the Great Elector, a distinguished place, showing how highly the princes thought of the duke of Savoy. He fully expounded the affairs of Italy, and the forces disposed. He was graciously heard, and the reply substantially was that the princes of the Union considered the affairs of Italy as very important, and that in view of the assertions and power of the Spaniards, everyone should be on the alert. They thought it good to draw together in a union with His Highness, and for this it would be well to confer with the king of England and the States. They asked the ambassador to assure the duke of their good will. This is the best reply possible, because the States recommended the affairs of the duke to the princes, and my king has also shown for a long while his desire to join his

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friends in a strong union. The words of the Spaniards were intended to benefit their cause, but they will have a fall. An accident of small moment, but of considerable significance, has taken place. My king sent a quantity of powder and other things to the duke at Savoy at the instance of the ambassador Scarnaficci. The ship which brought them, after unlading its cargo at Villafanica, proceeded further to Messina for a pilot, the captain not having experience of the navigation. There it was detained and the goods in it confiscated, the sailors being made galley slaves. Two other ships of lesser size have been taken by the Spaniards, and I had some of my property in them.

I have to thank your Serenity for the permission to take away the horses and for the letters of favour granted to the earl of Oxford. He wished to see all the dominions of this city. He bought the horses at Padua and at Brescia he procured armour for himself and his company, spending upwards of 2,000 crowns, which were well laid out, as it was for the service of the republic.

I have also to remind your Serenity of the sending of Captain Henry Bel, the Englishman of whom I spoke, who came here to offer his service with letters of recommendation from my king, who presented him as a soldier of experience and valour. He is awaiting a decision. He has a great knowledge of the conditions and methods of the enemy. The Secretary Winwood writes to me by order of His Majesty that he will permit the captain to raise levies freely in the realm.

The doge replied that what had been read would allow the ambassador to understand the state of affairs and induce His Majesty to make some decision in the common interests. Every consideration has been shown to the earl of Oxford. Their lordships would take into consideration the question of the other subject.

The ambassador had expressed the opinion that the affair of the Grisons would turn out well, and asked for particulars.

The doge replied that owing to his indisposition he had not been in the College and therefore could not supply the particulars.

The ambassador thereupon made some enquiries after the doge's health and then took leave.

[*Italian.*]

June 10.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**793.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The agent of the king of Great Britain came here to arrange two points which stood in the way of the negotiations for help from the Bernese; one was that Geneva should be named in the confederation, which was settled with the duke's consent, the other was that the word 'offensive' should not be used as against the Spaniards, one of the leaders of the Helvetian government saying that when they speak of defence in an alliance it includes the offensive for the ally as circumstances may require, and the Swiss had never made a league with any power in any other manner, though they were most disposed to serve Savoy, to the utmost of their power. In this way the agent arranged the second point also and immediately sent off

1617.

the signed confederation and orders for the men to march.\* There will be 3,000 infantry, excellently armed, and for four months at their own expense. They will be ready in about twenty days and will come very gladly owing to their affection for this house, which by yielding what it could never enjoy has laid the foundations of a strong friendship, most useful for this state.

Crescentino, the 10th June, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 12.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**794.** PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Secretary of England has been to complain to His Majesty of the damage received by the subjects of his king in the Mediterranean Sea owing to the depredations of the pirates.† He pointed out that the English merchants pay a very heavy custom in order that their shipping may be protected, but as no provision is made to protect them from such damage they ought in reason to be exempt. His king had frequently thought of sending his own fleet to these seas to check the audacity of the pirates, and had refrained simply because he did not wish to offend His Majesty; but now matters have reached such a pass that it is no longer tolerable, and the king has given orders for great preparations to be made in England for the protection of his subjects.

His Majesty replied in general terms and no resolution upon the subject has as yet been taken in the Council.

Madrid, the 12th June, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 18.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Constant.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**795.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The Sultan, contrary to all expectation, has chosen as lieutenant, or as they say here Caimecam of the Grand Vizier, the Pasha of Buda. They say that His Majesty inclined to the appointment of Achmet, who recently held the office, because he had gained much ground by making immense gifts to the king, the Chislaragasi and all the chief men of the seraglio, but the Grand Vizier begged the Sultan to choose any other person, and to please him His Majesty finally selected the Pasha of Buda. This has greatly pleased the Vizier because the Pasha is a confidential friend, but still more because of the exclusion of Achmet, his mortal enemy. For my part I should be glad to see Achmet sent to some charge in Asia, as it is reported he will be, because while he remains at the Porte I shall always dread his return to some position of influence.*

*Last Tuesday, the 6th inst., the Pasha sent a chiaus to all the houses of the ambassadors asking us to send our chief dragoman, as he wished*

\* Wake describes these negotiations in his despatch of 30 May—9 June, 1617. *State Papers, Foreign, Savoy.*

† The pirates grow so powerful that if present order be not taken to suppress them our trade must cease in the Mediterranean Sea. Winwood to Carleton, 4 June, 1617, o.s. *Letters from and to Sir Dudley Carleton*, page 135.

1617.

to speak to them. He told them that His Majesty was going on the following Thursday to perform the first sacrifices in the new mosque, and he invited the ambassadors to attend the festivities, when a suitable place would be assigned to them. The ambassadors accepted the invitation, and on their return the ambassadors of France, England and Flanders and I discussed what we should do, as by the Turkish custom when a building is finished all the neighbours send presents, and we ought to do something. When the Sultan Suliman built a mosque at Constantinople the ambassador of France and the Bailo of Venice offered gifts to it. We therefore decided to send to the Chislargasi twelve vestments each. These were immediately sent by him to the mosque and displayed there. The Imperial ambassador was also invited and sent a similar present. This expense was necessary and could not be avoided.

The mosque is built on one side of the square of the Hippodrome. Opposite it stood a large covered corridor for the four ambassadors and myself, divided into compartments by flags, leaving a place for each. I laughingly remarked to the ambassador of Flanders that as our rulers were joined in friendly relations it was not proper that we should be separated, and I ordered the cloth to be removed. Soon afterwards England did the same, and then France and the Emperor's ambassador.

After the preliminary sacrifices they placed the last stone of the cupola in position, and set a large gilt moon upon it. A long sermon followed. His Majesty came out, and all the officials went to kiss his hands. His Majesty, at the conclusion of the ceremony, mounted a richly caparisoned horse, and moved off accompanied by the officials and janissaries. We all subsequently left, on horseback. As soon as I had reached home the Pasha sent me a most noble golden raiment as a present, and he did the same to all the other ambassadors; in fact, his chief pre-occupation is to find some means of showing honour to the ministers of the powers, just as the late Caimecam was never so happy as when he could insult them, but, praise God, everything has turned out to the greater glory of the princes whom we represent.

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 18th June, 1617.

[Italian; deciphered.]

June 18.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**796.** OTTAVIO BON and VINCENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Some preachers who passed through this city some days ago have mixed scandalous ideas with their preaching which have caused grave displeasure to the king and his ministers. The English Benedictine, famous for his learning and eloquence, has urged the people to pray to God for the establishment of peace and religion in this kingdom.\* This was the more necessary because he knew that the king had been persuaded by his favourites to go to the preaching at Charenton (*Scialanton*), and if this happened it would cause grave prejudice to the Catholic religion. He has been commanded to make a public withdrawal, and has promised to do

\* Probably Dr. Giffard. See *State Papers, Foreign, France*. 2 June, 1617.



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so. The parliament is thinking of ordaining that preachers throughout the kingdom shall confine themselves strictly to evangelical subjects, as other scandalous lies have been propagated from the public pulpits.

The English ambassador at his first audience, which took place recently, congratulated His Majesty and urged that he should bind the princes to him by caresses and kindness, so that they may be loyal and ready to execute his orders as they have shown themselves recently.

Paris, the 13th June, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 16.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**797.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

We hear of the arrival at Cattaro of the ten galleys of Candia. The nineteen galleys of Naples, with reinforcements are understood to have gone to Meleda. Don Pedro de Leva and Ossuna's son are said to have received the keys of Ragusa and to have been entertained publicly there. They have proclaimed that Turks and Jews may go freely to the kingdom of Naples and they honour the Uscochi. When a Dutch ship with 160 soldiers for our service touched the port it was detained, the men taking refuge in Turkish territory, where they were picked up by our galleys.

Our fleet is at Liesena awaiting reinforcements which should have arrived by now. It is understood that the Viceroy is also sending reinforcements from Naples, Sicily and Genoa.

In Friuli an attack on Bosco di Rubbia failed, though the enemy suffered severely; a raid on our camp from Gradisca was repulsed.

Our galleys from Candia learned that there was some suspicion of plague in the Lazaretto at Zante and that great precautions were being taken. We have chosen two Proveditori of Health to look after our islands and seaboard.

The like to:

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| The Imperial Court. | Milan.    |
| The Hague.          | Naples.   |
| Rome.               | Florence. |
| Spain.              | Mantua.   |
| France.             | Zurich.   |
| Savoy.              | Padavin.  |

Ayes 148.

Noes 4.

Neutral 3.

[*Italian.*]

June 16.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**798.** To the AMBASSADOR with his IMPERIAL MAJESTY.

Yesterday we learned from Constantinople that the ministers of the Porte are much annoyed at the reception of the Naples fleet at Ragusa and informed His Majesty. Word was at once sent to the Ragusans to abstain from such conduct under severe penalties, and the ministers of Albania, Servia and Dalmatia were ordered to be prepared for any emergencies and not to permit anything

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prejudicial to the Porte. The Captain of the Sea has been sent out with an enlarged fleet and they have written a friendly letter advising us of these decisions. The Vizier informed our Bailo of everything. We send this for information solely, to be used in case of necessity.

The like to :

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| London.    | Milan.    |
| The Hague. | Naples.   |
| Rome.      | Florence. |
| Spain.     | Mantua.   |
| France.    | Zurich.   |
| Savoy.     | Padavin.  |

Ayes 148.

Noes 4.

Neutral 3.

[*Italian.*]

June 17.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**799.** To the AMBASSADOR at ROME.

Yesterday a frigate arrived from Zara with news that the Spanish fleet had appeared off Liesena. They heard firing and thought there had been fighting in which the Neapolitans lost some ships. The report caused great excitement in the city and some words were spoken against the Spaniards. The Spanish ambassador, fearing for his safety, asked the doge for some special protection, which was at once granted although there was no necessity. This morning he renewed his request in the Cabinet and obtained full satisfaction. We send this for information so that the truth may not be blurred.

The like to :

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Germany. | Naples.   |
| France.  | Milan.    |
| Spain.   | Florence. |
| England. | Mantua.   |
| Savoy.   | Zurich.   |

Ayes 163.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

June 18.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**800.** PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Secretary of England has been to inform me that the duke of Lerma had sent for him to complain that his king favours the interests of the duke of Savoy, not only by sending him all kinds of munitions, but by negotiating with the Most Christian King to join together to help the duke against this Crown. He told me that the duke had sent for him solely to talk to him about this, and that he had spoken with great vehemence, asserting that the cause supported by the Catholic King was so just that he would have no fear even if all the world banded together against him.

1617.

The Secretary replied defending the action of his king because of the obligation he was under by the treaty of Asti to defend the duke. The duke replied that Savoy was such an unquiet prince, as was well known, that he had no other purpose but to throw the whole world into confusion, and he did not deserve help from the king, who was so prudent and so strongly bound to this crown by blood and friendship. He added that the Venetians were the cause of the continuation of the trouble by fomenting the duke, and they were also responsible for the war with the archduke, since before taking arms the republic was carrying on its practices with Savoy.

The Secretary justified the cause of the duke, saying that he was engaged in a defensive war as he had not been the first to commit acts of offence against the dominions of His Majesty, but had been attacked and ill-used by the king's ministers. He showed the justice of the war waged by your Excellencies against the archduke and how you had been compelled by His Majesty's ministers to draw close to Savoy.

He said nothing to him about the peace negotiations and the secretary told me that this confirmed the idea, which he had expressed in his last letters to his king, namely, that he had come to the opinion that these negotiations for peace had simply been introduced in order to separate your Excellencies from the duke of Savoy, and His Majesty wrote back that if the republic and Savoy remain united, they will either continue the war with great glory for both or will obtain an honourable and safe peace.

I thanked the secretary for the communication and for the prudent offices with the duke to uphold the interests of your Excellencies, and our colloquy ended.

Madrid, the 18th June, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 18.

Senato,  
Secreta,  
Dispacei,  
Svizzeri.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**801.** PIETRO VICO, Venetian Secretary with the Swiss, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The duke of Savoy has replied to the Bernese approving almost entirely of the league. The deputies have met to decide upon the matter at once. His Highness asks as a favour that the soldiers may be sent to him immediately.

Zurich, the 18th June, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 19.

Senato,  
Terra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**802.** That a pension of 12 ducats a month be awarded to the Secretary Giovanni Rizzardo in recognition of his faithful service for thirty years both at home and abroad, and especially at the courts of Germany and England.

Ayes 152.

Noes 11.

Neutral 14.

On the 27th April in the Cabinet :

Ayes 15.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

1617.

June 19.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**803. PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Yesterday morning the duke of Lerma sent for me to meet the nuncio and the French ambassador. He spoke about Savoy, asserting that the king would stand by the treaty of Asti. He added, I do not believe that the duke will withdraw from this, because if he does all the princes who took part in that treaty will be logically bound to side against him. He declared that the differences of the republic with the archduke should be settled at the same time by carrying out the treaty of Vienna and repressing the Uscocchi. He said that they offered just and reasonable terms which could not be refused by well-disposed persons, and if they were not accepted it would appear clearly that the republic and the duke of Savoy were responsible for the war. He had agreed to these conditions owing to the repeated instances made to him in the name of His Holiness, the Most Christian King and the king of England and by his desire to see peace established in Christendom and the heretics expelled who have been introduced into Italy upon this occasion.

The nuncio and France both spoke in favour of peace; I concurred in the same sense. We discussed the question at some length. At the end the duke of Lerma declared that his king would not suffer the smallest alteration in the terms of the treaty of Asti. With this the conference ended, after lasting more than three hours.

Madrid, the 19th June, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 20.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci.  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**804. OTTAVIANO BON and VICENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

M. Langerach, the ambassador of the States, went yesterday to inform the Marquis of Lanz of the decision of his masters to help the duke of Savoy with 20,000 florins to 50,000 the month.. The Marquis had already heard this from M. de Monthou, who wrote that he would soon be leaving the Hague to go and procure the help of the Protestant princes, and with the example of the States he promised himself an easy success. The Marquis also hopes to receive yet greater help from England, as the ambassador of the king there had told him that he had well authenticated news from London that the Spanish party in the Council had been deposed and annihilated, and that good Englishmen had gained the upper hand. He also believes that the dissatisfaction which now exists between that king and the Archduke Albert may become greater. The marquis has related all this to the duke by the Count Camello, who is leaving post for Turin.

Paris, the 20th July, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 20.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**805. CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Sir [Thomas] Stodder has always been well disposed to make the journey, but he has always been prevented by want of money and by his imprisonment. I hear that the English agent recently

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approached the archdukes to obtain satisfaction for some injurious words spoken against him. Now that I have received your Serenity's orders about Stodder I have sent word to Pasini to make him an offer and give him money to help him to take the journey, but to proceed cautiously. I have written to Pasini again to-day to tell him to try and make things safe and to make sure that he will come to Venice.

The Hague, the 20th June, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 26.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**806.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The agent of the king of Great Britain has made representations to the duke which your Serenity shall hear. He spoke with much liberty owing to the consideration he has won by concluding the alliance with the Bernese, which is the work of his hands, and because of his thorough knowledge of the business. He complained that he had not been acquainted with events which were taking place, with the decisions taken and the news, as was fitting with the ministers of a king who was interested in these troubles, for the munitions of war already given, for the representations made everywhere, even to sending a special ambassador to Spain, and in every possible way in which good-will could be shown. He pointed out the prejudice which this silence involved, there being no ambassador of His Highness with His Majesty. He emphasized his complaint by saying that it was impossible to pass a greater slight than to refer the negotiations to Spain, as they were doing, without ever informing his king about it. He had first heard of it from the Spaniards themselves, since the duke of Lerma, on seeing the letters of authority, at once sent for the agent of England resident at that court, and told him of it, in order to sow discord and coldness in the friendship. He added that he felt this more strongly because he had never opened his mouth to the king about it, and the Secretary Winwood had written to him with great displeasure that His Majesty and all other unbiassed persons could see that the negotiations would prove a snare and place Italy in the need of help from that kingdom. The fact that the war was defensive rendered it expensive and destructive and brought the republic to the last extremity, as it has inflicted many calamities and miseries upon these states, and if it continues thus some irreparable disaster will occur to the general detriment of liberty. Long, expensive and purely defensive wars mean nothing but the ruin of states, the scandal of the people and a decline in vigour and in the very knowledge of well-being. He knew that if any proper decision should be taken his king would declare himself and appear where his powerful help was most required, as he had the means of doing and as his subjects would like to see done. He reminded His Highness that he had readily informed His Majesty of the conclusion of peace, the need for war and the necessities and dangers involved. Let him appoint an ambassador who should be in London on the king's return from Scotland, about

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the end of August, to arrange with the republic about help, and to join this friendship without losing time so as to benefit by its results. He promised that they would be most effective. It would be most easy to create a diversion at sea by attacking the kingdom of Portugal and the port of Lisbon; to fight the fleet and compel Spain to maintain a large fleet outside the Strait. They would be unable to assist the states of Italy and would be exhausting their money, as if once England declared war against Spain it would last for many years; it would not be like the great undertakings of the French, of which they tire in a few months, and he knew that the Spaniards dreaded a declaration from England more than one from France. He offered to go post to the king to serve the common cause. If they wished for help from His Majesty two things were necessary, the first to proceed no further with the negotiations in Spain without his taking a part; the second, to enter upon no fresh negotiations without doing the same. He knew for certain that his king would not move a step before he heard from Spain that the letters of authority were withdrawn and the negotiations entirely broken off there.

The duke informed me of all this, and begged me to report it to your Serenity, so that you might consider the advantages of the friendship and decide together how to strengthen it and to turn it to advantage. He said he had told the agent that he would readily send an ambassador and do whatever was calculated to move His Majesty to declare himself and help Italy in her need.

The agent himself told me everything and seemed of the most friendly disposition. He urged the great advantages and the security that your Excellencies would derive from union with his king, adding that he considered it necessary that there should be an ambassador in London as a sign of respect and confidence, as he knew that the court remarked upon it, and the queen in particular complained about so much delay. When the count of Scarnafis took leave of her she said that it seemed strange that Italy should be involved in serious war and yet take no account of the kingdom which could do so much, and he told this to the duke, who was displeased.

I believe that His Highness will at once send Scarnafis back. He is a man of good ability with a great knowledge of affairs. I have urged him to do so, assuring him that your Serenity will leave nothing undone and that you have already sent the Secretary Lionello to Scotland.

Turin, the 21st June, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 22.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

807. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

It is about a week ago that a member of the household of the ambassador Wotton who resides at Venice, passed towards this island by way of France and without touching England sailed

1617.

to Scotland.\* He was sent by the ambassador to His Majesty in all diligence. When embarking at Calais he sent three letters to London, for the archbishop of Canterbury, for the secretary Winwood and for a certain man who has charge of the ambassador's affairs here. To the two first Wotton gives a clear account of the reasons for the mission, to the third he writes generally that it is for a greater affair than a minister of His Majesty has ever handled and therefore he must be circumspect in what he hears said about it and the news of what is going to take place. This agent, with little discretion, firstly allowed Lord Wotton, the ambassador's brother, to see the letter, and afterwards many others, so that all are consumed by curiosity. News immediately spread through the city of the despatch of the courier for very serious affairs, and because no one can find out anything some of the leading men have come to me, thinking that I should know more than the others. While every one was forming an opinion for himself upon the subject, I remained in a state of great anxiety, fearing some mischance such as any prince is liable to in time of war, and therefore the more eager to investigate the truth.

*I had a turn of good fortune, as the affair was imparted by one of the only two who knew anything about it in England to a third person, and I subsequently contrived to hear from him under a pledge of great secrecy what I now write to your Serenity. The ambassador Wotton writes that some two months ago a letter reached him from Milan under an assumed name, which offered to inform him of a most important affair that was being negotiated to the prejudice of the king of England, if he would send his secretary to Milan, who on arriving incognito should ask for such a person, through whose means they would meet, and he must not fail to send him because the affair was of great importance. The ambassador decided to send his secretary with another of his household. When they reached Milan they enquired for the person, found him, and were taken by him to the College of Jesuits, where they conferred with the rector of the College. He said that he was the one who had written the letter to the ambassador, and although he was a Catholic yet he was a man, and evil deeds grieved him, and therefore when he knew that negotiations were on foot which placed the life of the king here in manifest danger, he wished to accompany the secretary to England to discover it, but that he would not be in a condition to start before three days and therefore he begged him to wait that time in Milan, without letting anyone suspect his presence. The secretary did this and when he returned at the end of the three days the rector told him that he could not leave before another ten days and therefore he begged him to wait and to change his inn frequently so as not to excite suspicion or to be taken as a vagabond. The secretary promised to do so, but suspecting from this manner of proceeding that the Jesuit was scheming some evil against him, he returned to Venice without seeing him again. Some days later a letter*

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\* Mr. Morton passed this way on Monday last from Heidelberg to find the king in Scotland, which errand he hath picked out of a letter from Fabritio [Wotton]. wherein he adviseth some matter of danger to the king's person, and withal hath sent a certain Jesuit of Milan into England as the discoverer, whereof at Heidelberg they have reason to inquire after the news. Carleton to Chamberlain, June 3, 1617 o.s. Birch, *Court and Times of James I*, ii, p. 14.

1617.

reached the ambassador from the same Jesuit, complaining of the impatience shown by the secretary, and in order not to give him further cause for suspicion, he begged him to send him to Basel with enough money to travel to England, and he should find him there and they would go together to His Majesty to disclose to him what concerned him so nearly. The secretary started again on his journey, and on arriving at Basel he found the rector of the Jesuits there. He sent word of this to the ambassador, who at once sent off a courier to England in all haste, to acquaint the king with the matter up to that point, and that he would learn the rest from the Jesuit who was travelling towards him with the secretary with all speed. This is the substance of the mission.\* The others should arrive afterwards, I do not know whether they have arrived yet. I hope that I shall be able to go on and discover everything that is to be known about this. It certainly seems to me that in one way or another it should be a matter of some importance, as the person who is playing the principal part does not seem to be of the light kind who would decide upon taking such a step without good grounds. However, the fact that this mission sent by Wotton has been proclaimed as one of extraordinary importance cannot fail to injure the king, because the persons interested, supposing that they know their own intentions, may easily imagine that the affair touches them, and they will look out for themselves and for whatever else may help them. I do not doubt but His Majesty will give ear to the matter because it seems to be very well grounded, and the experience of past perils renders him very liable to fear new ones. It may therefore happen that he will leave Scotland sooner than he intended, the more so because upon some other occasion a report got about that he was to leave a month earlier. Moreover he has almost made up his mind not to attempt those innovations among the Scotch for which he undertook the journey, as he recognizes that they would not prove agreeable to the people, and although the parliament is convoked which was spoken of from the beginning, I understand that they will do little else there than exchange compliments between His Majesty and his subjects.

Sir [John] Bennet, who is in Flanders for His Majesty, writes in his last letters that he can obtain nothing from His Highness in satisfaction of His Majesty, and therefore he was preparing to leave bringing with him the ordinary English agent in residence there, as he had instructions from the king to do if he saw that the matter was hopeless. I am told by a person of the highest rank that when His Majesty gave the commission to Bennet he did it with the idea, when Bennet got back, of dismissing all the ministers of Spain and the archdukes, and breaking off friendly relations with them, because they protect and encourage those who attack him so fiercely; however strong resolutions are so difficult here that I do not know whether the deeds

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\* Wotton's description of these circumstances is contained in his letter to the Lords of the Privy Council, dated 30 May, 1617 o.s. *State Papers. Foreign. Venice*. He sent to Milan his secretary, Richard Seamer, who there met the Provost of San Fedele. The secretary returned for advice, because he only had instructions to deal with a Polish knight. Wotton sent to Rome for particulars and learned that the Jesuit who had seen his secretary was the provost of San Fedele and named Tomaso Cerronio. Wotton sent Seamer to Basel on the last day of May accompanied by Arthur Terringham. In a dispatch to Winwood of the same date Wotton gives the name of the courier he sent on as Daniel de Montaflass. The journey of Morton to Scotland, mentioned in the preceding note, must have been taken independently.



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*will correspond with the ideàs (mi vien detto da personaggio grandissimo che quando Sua Maestà diede questa commissione al Benet lo fece con concetto, arrivato, ch' egli sia di qua, di licenziare tutti li ministri di Spagna et delli Archiduchi et romper con essi loro la buona intelligenza, poiche proteggono et spaleggiano quelli che così vivamente lo offendono, pure sono così difficili qui le rissolutioni rive che non so se le opere corresponderanno alli concetti). It may indeed happen that the Spaniards, confiding in the pacific nature of His Majesty will so multiply occasions of offence, that they may at length meet with what they did not fear at first. Besides this affair of Flanders they may easily be concerned in this future affair of the Jesuit, and, in addition, there is news among the merchants that the ship Diamond has been detained at Naples, and at Messina la Latea, both very fine and rich English ships, in which many merchants of this mart are interested, including the joint owners and others of my acquaintance. They have been to see me, the more so because it is said that this has happened because the ships were destined for Venice. While they were debating what steps they should take, their inclination leaning most to employ the good offices of the Spanish ambassador, I thought it a good service to tactfully persuade them to have recourse to the Council of State and state their complaints there. This they have as good as decided to do unless by the next ordinary they hear of their release, and if by the next ordinary they do not hear of their release, I hope that their petitions will be well received by the archbishop of Canterbury and the Secretary Winwood as a very proper pretext for putting aside the negotiations for the marriage with Spain, for which the queen is at present less inclined, because Sir [John] Digby (Ghibe), who is negotiating for it, has recently fallen from favour, while the Secretary Winwood, who opposes it, has re-entered into grace.*

With regard to the remaining affairs of the world, they are completely enveloped in silence at the Court, we only hear that news is coming from Spain about peace and from Italy about war.

I have received your Excellencies' letters of the 2nd June with the news from those parts, and the one of the 20th May acquainting me with the favour of the Senate, which surpasses all my deserts. Instead of thanks which I cannot worthily express, I pray that God may relieve the republic from her present troubles with such glory as has always belonged to her in even more difficult situations.

London, the 22nd June, 1617.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

June 23.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

808. To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

The Spanish fleet was observed on the 12th, 3 miles outside Liesena; our fleet could not go out to meet them owing to contrary winds. Shots were exchanged, however, and apparently they suffered some damage. They are supposed to have returned towards Brindisi to await reinforcements from Naples and Sicily. We hope that in the meantime the galleys from Candia and the other ships sent from here will join our forces and put them in a position to fight successfully.

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In the absence of our fleet the Uscocchi have raided Caorle and Pesaro. Three other barques of Uscocchi have used the port of Novi, near Arcona, without hindrance from the ecclesiastical ministers, as a starting point for their raids.

Nothing of moment has happened on land. Our forces are camped beyond the Lisonzo and are keeping the enemy busy with the defence of Bosco di Rubia, while pressing Gradisca.

The like to:

|                                        |                 |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| the Imperial Court.                    | Milan.          |
| the Hague.                             | Naples.         |
| Rome.                                  | Florence.       |
| France.                                | Mantua.         |
| Spain.                                 | Zurich.         |
| Savoy.                                 | Constantinople. |
| The Proveditore General of the Forces. |                 |
| The Proveditore beyond the Menzo.      |                 |

Ayes 127.

Noes 2.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

June 27.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Constantino-  
poli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**809.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*I have endeavoured to discredit the Ragusan envoys with the governing powers here, but I have not gone too far, because I do not think it would be to the service of the republic to excite the Turks against them. I understand that these Ragusans have been to call upon the English ambassador, and I believe that they will do the same with Flanders, and they possibly hope that they will return the visit, following the example of France. I do not intend to do so unless I am ordered, as the ambassadors of your Serenity are not accustomed to visit them.*

*Seffer Aga has arrived here, the customs officer of Alexandretta. Though of small account himself he assumes great consequence through the favour of the Chislar Agasi, and has thrown the whole affair of Aleppo into confusion, as he cherishes a special spite against the Venetians. He requires our ships to pay 150 piastres where they only used to pay 14, and to pay the custom of money, a thing never done before. I fear that it will be difficult to dispute the matter, as he is supported by the powerful arm of the Chislar Agasi, and because the French, English, and Flemings have agreed to pay the custom on money, and also because he has informed the Chislar Agasi that our ships bring 90,000 piastres and more, almost all in the name of Frenchmen, to whom they are consigned to escape the custom, whereas our ships carry no more than 25 to 30,000 ducats in money and the rest in woollen cloth and silk, while the other nations bring nothing but money. The sale to us of woollen and silk cloth is very slight, so that the little money brought gives life to the affair. One half of this custom, which is 4 per cent, is appropriated to the king's privy purse; the other half is paid to the customs officer at Aleppo, and when the ambassadors of all the other nations approached the king through the Pasha asking that they might be allowed to escape it, the king rebuked the Grand Vizier, saying that he ought not to prevent the increase of his revenues.*

1617.

*The institution of a payment of 150 reals per ship for anchorage was introduced for the purpose of bringing back the traffic to Alexandretta, and because they wished to build a fort there, but nevertheless they have never collected this custom entire from the other nations, and we have never been willing to pay it. The fort is not being built, and so there is no reason for imposing this charge.*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 27th June, 1617.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

June 27.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**810.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I communicated the recent news to the English ambassador, as instructed, asking him to make suitable representations to His Majesty at a fitting moment, referring to his honour being involved in the treaty of Asti. He spoke in terms of great respect of your Serenity, thanked me, and said your Serenity was justified in displaying such confidence in him, as he was devoted to the republic and would serve it; that I had made my office at an opportune moment, because he had the means of sending it to the king as on the following day Colonel Brogue (*Broch*)\* was leaving for Scotland, so that if the Secretary Lionello had not already arrived there the letter he sent would put the matter in good trim for him. Even if the secretary arrived first he felt sure his letter would bear good fruit and still further confirm the favourable disposition of his king towards the republic.

He has written and yesterday at three in the afternoon the colonel left for Edinburgh, where he hoped to arrive in four days. I thanked the ambassador and I will maintain the same confidential relations with him as hitherto.

The Hague, the 27th June, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

June 27.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**811.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The President of Guelders is away from the Hague. He should return to-morrow or the following day. I will sound him about the proposal for a league, as your Serenity directs. I find the opinion that if they make an alliance with your Serenity and the duke of Savoy they would also have to include the Princes of Germany and, as I wrote last week, there was also some talk of the king of Great Britain and the evangelical Swiss. When I have had an opportunity of discussing the subject with anybody I have pointed out that this multiplication would either occasion confusion in negotiation or long delay in deciding, while the nature of the affairs and present disturbances do not admit of delay, but demand immediate action and speedy decision.

I sounded M. Barnevelt upon this particular. He said it was necessary to think it over and to find some means to promote the general welfare, to have a good understanding and a kind of league

\* See Carleton's letter of 1<sup>st</sup> June, 1617. *State Papers. Foreign. Holland.*

1617.

(con qualche unione), but that mature deliberation was required. To this I said that the republic was waiting to hear what might be arranged and I could assure His Excellency that he would meet with every response from your Serenity.

He replied that time is needed to think it over, and then immediately began upon something else, but this is the first time he has gone so far. When I saw prince Maurice he assured me that the project would be welcomed and he thought that something would be said soon.

From what the English ambassador said to me I fancy that they would like here to have the credit of having clearly made the proposal in public, but in my humble opinion, it will be necessary to make fairly certain that the proposal will be embraced. The English ambassador told me that they were well disposed here, and even anxious, but their irresolution formed an obstacle; it arose from the form of their government, and possibly private jealousy, and the religious disputes did not allow everything to appear at once. But he could assure me, what I have also been able to observe from the general disposition, that they are not restrained by fear of the Spaniards, and when they have an opportunity they will act. He also declared that the league must be made with the concurrence of the other princes and republics. He said it was usual for those who were not in difficulties to wait for those who were to move, and possibly they are waiting here. For his part he thought the way easy, and as regards the republic he recalled the exposition which he had made in the Cabinet for a league with his king and the princes of Germany and their States, to which only a general reply was given. The present moment seemed opportune to him for renewing the idea, and he felt sure that his king was of the same mind as when he gave instructions for that communication to be made. So far as I remember this was practically in conformity with the office performed by the Ambassador Wotton on the 1st August, while Carleton's office was performed on his return to Venice from Piedmont.

The ambassador further told me that His Majesty would not be prevented by anything, although it is said that he has given orders to his ambassador who has gone to the Court of Spain to listen to what is proposed about marriages, because these are ceremonies and not essentials, and His Majesty will aim far more at the public good than at what may disturb it, and this would not prevent him from pursuing his idea, namely not to suffer the progress of the Spaniard or lose his good friends.

The Hague, the 27 June, 1617.

[Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.]

June 25.  
Cons. di X.  
Parti  
Secreto.  
Venetian  
Archives.

812. That a Secretary of this Council communicate the following information to the Savii of our Cabinet and to the Senate, after enjoining secrecy.

Information from a safe and certain source states that the Ambassador of England, who it is understood has not called on the Spanish ambassador for a year, last Monday, the 26th inst., upon the pretext of going to his villa and remaining there for some days, went to visit the Spanish ambassador, and the two remained closeted alone together for an hour and a half, a fact which was

1617.

noted by the English ambassador's own people, as previously he did not seem to be on good terms with the ambassador of Spain.

An individual, who is well informed, further states that the mob about the house of the Spanish ambassador during the past days seemed very strange to him, and therefore he has been to say to another ambassador of a great prince that the same kind of thing might happen to the ambassador of France or of England or to any other ambassador, and it would be necessary to obtain some redress.

That the Spanish ambassador has received letters from the duke of Mantua offering to send men to his house to protect his life, inviting him, in case of danger, to proceed to Mantua, and that the ambassador has accepted the proposal.

That to the Spaniards the report of the recent riot seemed strange because the ambassador and his familiars were constantly writing to Spain, Naples and Milan that the people of Venice were ill-affected towards the republic, while these disturbances testified to their loyalty, so that they are much mortified at being exposed as liars.\*

Ayes 16.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

The communications was made and a copy was left in the hands of the Secretary Dominici. It was communicated to the Senate on the 29th.\*

July 29.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**813.** OTTAVIANO BON and VINCENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

We immediately sent the despatch to England, which you sent us for Lionello by the English ambassador. The one for Spain we have sent off by express courier.

Paris, the 29th June, 1617.

[Italian.]

June 29.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**814.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The Jesuit of whom I wrote last week has arrived in London accompanied by one of the household of the Ambassador Wotton, but not his secretary as was believed. He has brought with him a young Englishman, one of those who are being educated in the college of Milan, by giving him to understand that his coming to this island was with the object of advancing the Catholic religion and he wished to employ him in this work, but in reality he made use of this pretext in order that his journey to these parts should not excite suspicion in Italy. Immediately on his arrival here he desired that the young collegian should separate himself from him, telling him that though his presence with him up to that time had been of assistance, it might injure him in the future, and accordingly the young man has been established in some apartments, where he enjoys every comfort except social intercourse, as he does not see and cannot be seen by anyone. The Jesuit follows the same course, because when the archbishop and the Secretary Winwood pressed him*

\* The Copy is preserved in Senato, Secreta, Comunicazioni dal Cons. de' X. Vol VIII.

1617.

*to disclose the reason for his coming, he frankly refused to do so to any one except the king himself, and therefore word has been sent to His Majesty to await his decision. Meanwhile the Jesuit is kept most secretly in the queen's most private apartments at Greenwich (Granuig), and when once they offered to allow him to go out in a carriage, accompanied by a guard, to take the air, he refused to accept; indeed he seems quite content about the circumspection shown to keep the present affair quite secret and heighten its importance.\**

The queen has gone to Oatlands to remain there for the whole summer, and the prince to Richmond. In ten days the Secretary Winwood is to go to Scotland, and the archbishop also is leaving; all the other nobles and gentlemen are leaving London, as is usual at this time of the year, and on Wednesday the French ambassador is leaving to cross the sea, as he has received permission from the Most Christian king to return home for six weeks.

The Ambassador Bennet has returned from Flanders with great discontent, as I have already written, and the English agent has also been recalled and is expected quite soon.

The explanation of the king of Denmark putting to sea with three ships and a pinnace is said to be in order to revisit some islands of his dominion, as he is accustomed to do every two years.

On Wednesday I received your Serenity's letters of the 9th June with the news of that week. Yesterday the other letters of the 9th reached me through France, with credentials for His Majesty and a copy of the letter of the duke of Ossuna to the Catholic king, and in conformity with your commands I have put myself in readiness at once to go to His Majesty in Scotland with all speed, and I hope to leave the day after to-morrow, as there is nothing else to detain me except the audience of the prince which he arranged for me to-morrow at Richmond, eight miles away. To-morrow also I hope to see the Secretary Winwood, who is out of the city, but his servants told me he was returning this evening.

I will diligently observe all the points contained in the letters, and I will explain to His Majesty when I see him with all the energy and ardour of which I am capable, and as regards the results which may be expected, my temerity in seeking him out may have some effect. I will report what His Majesty replies, and there is no doubt that if he will allow himself to be guided by what is reasonable and by his own interests he will not only make a full declaration but will also proceed to further action.

The other day I was discussing some news from Italy with the Secretary Winwood, especially the violence shown by the Spaniards in suppressing the liberties of that province, attacking at the same time with such forces and so many arts the most serene republic and His Highness of Savoy. Those powers would exert themselves to the utmost in their defence, but it seemed that this would not

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\* Winwood, however, does not seem to have been impressed. Writing to Carleton on Aug. 9, 1617, Chamberlain says, 'Touching Fabritio's [Wotton's] precious advertisement, I knew no more when I wrote you that I had seen the man; only finding our good friend [Winwood], methought more sparing than he usually is, when I inquired of him, I urged a little the more; whereupon he gave me this answer—"I cannot precisely say what it may come to; but, as far as I can gather, never trust my judgment if it prove any matter of worth." So that I doubt this *legatus peregre missus* will make good his *mentiendi causa*.' Birch, *Court and Times of James I.*, ii, p. 26.

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suffice, as the Spaniards called to their assistance a great part of the world dependent upon them. Winwood asked me if I were not sure now that the Spaniards were enemies and that they were waging a very bitter war by this crafty method of wearing us out, and whether the republic still persisted in her reluctance to have an understanding with her friends, who sought nothing more than to have a way of helping her by means of a confederation (*collegazione*) without which it was impossible to hope for anything satisfactory. As I made no reply, he kept on speaking about this league, showing, as he has freely said so many times before, that without it there is no possibility of coming to any substantial decision. I shall now have an opportunity of speaking with him more freely, and I pray God that I may not find any more of these notions either in him or in His Majesty.

I hope to cover the 300 miles in five or at most six days, and despatch the business quickly, and although I might say something of the affairs of His Majesty in Scotland at this moment, I will await the better information which I shall obtain then, to give your Excellencies a fuller account, so that if my letters do not reach you for two or three weeks, you will know the reason.

London, the 29th June, 1617.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

June 30.

Senato.  
Secretre.  
De liberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**815.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

Since our last news we have heard nothing further of the Spanish fleet, except that it went to Manfredonia and then proceeded to Brindisi. The galleys of Candia joined our forces, and the Greek infantry which they brought will be divided among the rest of the fleet. Our other ships are nearly ready to sail.

In Friuli the continual deluge prevents any movement. Our troops engaged in a skirmish with the archducal forces at the villa di Merna on the River Vipao, with loss on both sides. They made an unsuccessful raid from Gradisca, while we made a successful incursion from the sea towards Buccari.

The like to :

|                     |                 |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| the Imperial Court. | Milan.          |
| the Hague.          | Naples.         |
| Rome.               | Florence.       |
| France.             | Mantua.         |
| Spain.              | Zurich.         |
| Savoy.              | Constantinople. |

The Proveditore General in Terra ferma.

Ayes 184.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

July 1.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispaccl.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**816.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Yesterday morning I saw the Secretary Winwood and informed him of your Serenity's orders to me to go to the king in Scotland and for what purpose. I begged him to advance the affair by his

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letters, as I knew how valuable his advice was and how well affected he was to the common cause. He tried to persuade me not to undertake the journey, because the king was overwhelmed with affairs there and would receive the office more readily by letter. He offered to send them himself by post, supporting their contents to the utmost of his powers. I told him that the commands of your Serenity were so express that I had no liberty to change them and I assured him that in a matter of such great importance His Majesty would be graciously pleased to hear the office from my mouth, especially as it came from a power in such confidential relations with him and so much attached to him.

With regard to the merits of the affair he told me that he had no doubt but His Majesty's reply would display a readiness to satisfy the republic and to declare in favour of her cause, but he thought he would like to do it in conjunction with the king of France. I replied that such a form of union meant delay and that would be very prejudicial; and besides the Most Christian King had already declared himself not only by words and by letters to the Spaniards, but by deeds also, in sending powerful help to the duke of Savoy. He replied, So much the better, for then the union will be the more easily arranged.

This morning he said the same thing to Biondi, the agent of Savoy, and that most certainly his Majesty will join in this declaration, with France, the Princes of Germany and the States of Holland; but all the same he had written and recommended the affair, as I have learned from other quarters, besides what he says himself, for although he sometimes speaks sharply, yet he is naturally strongly anti-Spanish in his sympathies and from him more than from any other minister at this Court we expect good offices with the king (*perchè se ben egli talvolta parla assai aspro nondimeno è di affetto contrariissimo a' Spaguoli, et da lui più che da cadaun' altro ministro in questa Corte potiamo attender buoni officii appresso il Re*).

Yesterday I had audience of the prince at Richmond. After the preliminaries about the confidence and affection of your Excellencies towards him, I told him of the above affair. He listened with curiosity, and after thanking me and speaking in friendly terms he said that he felt sure that I should find the king his father quite ready to satisfy the most just desires of the republic, and therefore I should proceed joyfully. He wished me a good journey and I am about to begin it to-day after sealing this letter. I hope it may prove a fortunate one, and I will certainly use every effort to make it so.

London, the 1st July, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

July 8.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Disposci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

817. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The duke has been very glad to hear that your Serenity has already sent orders to stop the mutual negotiations for peace in Spain, and that the powers of the Ambassador Gritti have been withdrawn.*

Sant, the 8rd July, 1617.

[*Italian ; deciphered.*]



1617.

July 3.  
Cons. di X.  
Criminale.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**818.** That the despatches written by Antonio Foscari when ambassador in France and England be given to him at his request, for the sake of finding certain paragraphs in them containing facts mentioned by him in his examinations. They shall be shown to him in the presence of the Committee for the case or of their secretary at least, in order to insert in his defence the paragraphs quoted by him.

Ayes 13.

Noes 1.

Neutral 0.

Sig. Marco Loredan expelled.

[*Italian.*]

July 4.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**819.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The English ambassador has received news of an encounter between the fleet of your Serenity and that of Naples, in which the latter lost two galleys sunk and two taken; that the news reached Venice on the 16th ult.; that there had been great rejoicings in the city, and the Spanish ambassador had withdrawn to his house for fear of what might happen to him. He has published these particulars and everyone is asking me if the news is true. I pray God that it may be confirmed.

The same Ambassador Carleton has heard in letters substantially all that I received in your letters of the 16th ult. about the orders issued by the Turk to his ministers by sea and land and of what they have said to your ministers, and also that His Majesty has written to me upon the matter. I thanked him for the communication and in return told him of your Serenity's commands that you hoped you had sufficient forces to defend yourselves without making use of the Turk. This ambassador is advised frequently and well of the evils which are taking place there.

The lords here are very suspicious of the proceedings of the king of Denmark. They hear that he has gone to Scotland and know not what to think, as they know quite well that he is no friend to the States and they are greatly afraid lest he contaminate the king of Great Britain. They also suspect that his negotiations at the Imperial Court are directed against their alliance with the Hanse towns.

The Hague, the 4th July, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

July 5.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**820.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO.

We send you the copy of an office which the Ambassador Donato writes was performed with His Highness there by the agent of England and of our reply to him. This will serve you for information and to answer if you are spoken to on the matter. It may be that the agent has spoken without royal warrant, because the Ambassador Wotton has not breathed a syllable on the subject, and when we communicated this matter to him he replied in

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general and courteous terms without descending to details about the office of the agent, which causes us not to speak expressly but to direct you to make use of this information when opportunity serves.

Ayes 149.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

July 5.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**821.** To the AMBASSADOR with HIS HIGHNESS OF SAVOY.

The king of Great Britain has been informed of the breaking off of the negotiations for peace in Spain and the subsequent events, and although the office was somewhat delayed in order not to interrupt the assistance which that king was preparing for Savoy, yet we acted opportunely and with the knowledge of the duke, and we never abandoned our confidence with the king, but informed his ambassador of the steps taken in Spain and sent the Secretary Lionello to Scotland to ask the king to use his influence to help Italy, so that the complaint made by the English agent to His Highness cannot, we think, refer to us but to His Highness, who knew quite well what he ought to answer. You may gently insinuate this to the duke himself, adding that we are instructing our secretary to renew the same offices, in order to conciliate the king as much as possible; that the Catholic king, instead of being a mediator, is acting as an enemy. To bind ourselves not to treat without the knowledge of England if the Most Christian king intervened, would be a premature declaration and cannot be done now for a thousand reasons as His Highness will recognise, and you will explain this to him only when an opportunity presents itself. You will not discuss this with the agent of England, but will avoid the subject, thanking him for the good intentions of His Majesty and his own friendly offices. In particular you will acquaint both the agent and His Highness that on the return of His Majesty from Scotland he will find an ambassador from us at Court to treat upon present affairs. The death of the Ambassador Barbarigo and nothing else caused delay in this.

You will thank M. Bethune for the offices performed in France and elsewhere, and you will state that nothing will afford greater help than a strong and friendly declaration of His Most Christian Majesty upon the preservation of this province and of ourselves, informing him that negotiations are on foot for a general disarmament both by land and sea.

Ayes 149.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

July 5.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**822.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

The Spaniards are artfully endeavouring to obscure the ends of their present action. This moves us to make some reflections upon the principal points. We entered upon the negotiations with entire sincerity and a desire to relieve Italy of her troubles, and

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with no other aims except the preservation of our own and the common liberty. We agreed to go to the Court of Spain with the duke of Savoy in order to leave every opening for peace, while that king preserved some pretence of neutrality in spite of help afforded to the Archduke Ferdinand. But the Spaniards have lagged far behind their promises, by proposals to expel only twelve Uscocchi and so forth; while they endeavoured to separate our matter from that of Savoy. They will not listen to negotiations for disarmament, which is the essential point in both affairs. At the very time when the negotiations were proceeding they were giving orders to press Vercelli and to enter our Gulf to fight our fleet and make open war on us. Moreover, the Catholic king reserved to himself the liberty to accept or no even if we embraced his proposals. All this proves that he is after nothing good, and that the other powers must guard the general interests. You will insist strongly upon these points at every opportunity, so that their impostures may not pass current. If they were simply thinking of their prestige, as they pretend, it would not be necessary for them to do anything prejudicial to the liberty of this province. But the Spaniards hope to advance their designs by the continuance of disturbances here. This requires ripe reflection, and they should be met vigorously.

The like to :

|            |           |              |
|------------|-----------|--------------|
| Rome.      | France.   | the Emperor. |
| Savoy.     | Mantua.   | Milan.       |
| Naples.    | Florence. | the Swiss.   |
| The Hague. |           |              |

The General of the Forces.

The General in Terra Ferma.

Ayes 112.

Noes 0.

Neutral 1.

[*Italian.*]

July 10.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Germania.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**823.** ZORZI GIUSTINIAN, Venetian Ambassador in Germany, to the DOGE and SENATE.

An ambassador has arrived from Mantua to congratulate the new king of Bohemia, and others have arrived from other princes of that province *but hitherto not one from the princes of the Union. Indeed they write that the Palatine, by the advice of those princes, proposes to go to England to see his father-in-law to negotiate for preventing that event.*

Prague, the 15th July, 1617. *Copy.*

[*Italian; the part in italics has been deciphered.*]

July 11.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**824.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Pasini has written that Sir [Thomas] Stodder is ready to set out to your Serenity. Accordingly he has given orders for the payment of the 200 ducats and to take a receipt, so that the money may be deducted from the first month of his pay.

The Hague, the 11th July, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

1617.

July 14.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**825. To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.**

Some unimportant skirmishes have taken place between the archducal forces and ours in Friuli. On the 12th the enemy crossed the Lisonzo to attack, but they withdrew after a short action.

Our fleet is at Liesena, where it has received reinforcements and nine galleys more are expected.

It should leave soon to find the Spanish fleet, of which there is no news except that it will move after the arrival of fresh ships from Sicily.

Letters of the 14th ult. from Constantinople inform us of the departure of the Turkish fleet from that port, numbering 87 galleys, and 2 maonas and 8 other galleys should follow them soon. The Captain of the Sea is in command, and he will join with the galleys of the guard, numbering about thirty. This is for information.

The like to :

The Imperial Court.

Rome.

Spain.

France.

Savoy.

Constantinople.

The Hague.

Milan.

Naples.

Florence.

Zurich.

Mantua.

Ayes 133.

Noes 0.

Neutral 7.

[Italian.]

July 14.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**826. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

I have received your Serenity's letters of the 5th and 8th inst. With regard to the negotiations of the agent of England with His Highness, which the agent himself told me of, I will avail myself of every opportunity of obtaining confirmation and fresh light, but there are no fresh opportunities at present, because the Agent is at Turin; but when I see him I will persevere in keeping him well informed and in a good humour, because that is a useful way of dealing with ministers who have a large share in guiding the disposition of their princes. I will not speak to His Highness unless I am provoked to do so or about sending an ambassador to England; this will certainly happen before long, and the person may possibly be the Senator Montù, who is now with the States.

Bisonzo, the 14th July, 1617.

[Italian.]

July 15.

Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**827. PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

*They are now negotiating for the marriage of the Infanta Diana to a son of the Archduke Ferdinand. I had word of this from more than one quarter and a friend of mine reported having seen a letter of Cardinal Dienistain making mention of it. The negotiations are taking place*

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*between the duke of Lerma and the imperial ambassador. At the same time they are keeping alive the negotiations begun with England, so much so that some say that the new negotiations with the Archduke Ferdinand have been instituted artificially in order to rouse the jealousy of the king of Great Britain and so induce him to agree more readily to the conditions which are proposed for the carrying out of the marriage. A few days ago the duke spoke about it to the English secretary here. The latter showed His Excellency what great benefit this crown would receive from such an alliance, while nothing but harm could come to the kingdom thereby. The duke praised his speech and asked him to put it in writing, as he wished to use those arguments in the Council.*

Madrid, the 15th July, 1617.

*[Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.]*

July 16.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**828.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

After I left London, on the day I notified your Excellencies, I began my journey with all diligence towards Berwick, the first town of Scotland. Shortly before arriving there I had the misfortune to fall under my horse, and I hurt my thigh so much that I only reached Edinburgh with great fatigue and much pain. There I have been forced to keep my bed for some days, and I am not completely recovered yet. However this has not in any way hindered the service of your Serenity, as when I arrived here on Saturday last, the final day of the parliament, I heard immediately that the king was intending to leave Edinburgh on the morning of the following Monday, to make a tour through some part of Scotland, which would take a month, and then enter England by way of Carlisle. Therefore, on seeing my opportunities so limited owing to the sudden departure of His Majesty, I abandoned the ordinary ways of asking for an audience and had recourse to the one infallible means of obtaining anything from His Majesty, the earl of Buckingham, who so contrived matters that on Sunday morning almost before day a gentleman came to tell me that His Majesty would be fully occupied for the whole day with the Scotch lords and on the following day he would leave early because he had a journey of 24 miles before him, so that he could not give me any other time than one, which he had never before appointed for such affairs, namely after supper. He did this and that evening he sent three gentlemen of his chamber to fetch me from the house, who brought me to His Majesty's apartments. I found him wrapped in a cloak, in a gallery, where he received me with a smiling countenance and friendly words. With excess of courtesy he adapted himself to the way he thought would best fit in with my infirmity, now walking about and now standing still, but in spite of all this I am much worse now through the efforts I then made. I presented your Serenity's letters, and by way of introducing the matter I told him that if it were not for the important events which are now occurring to the prejudice of the liberty of Italy, your Serenity would not again have troubled His Majesty at this moment by sending me to Scotland, as you know that his short time was fully occupied in revisiting

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his native country and most noble kingdom ; but the necessity was so urgent that your Serenity could not do less than commit this important mission to me and I hoped His Majesty would receive it as a sign of confidence and as a matter worthy of engaging his royal thoughts.

I then went on to tell him of the result of the recent negotiations at Madrid, omitting no particulars which might show him that the Spaniards never meant to have peace, and they were simply negotiating to obtain some meretricious advantage. When I spoke to him about the pretensions of the Spaniards upon the accommodation of the differences between your Excellencies and the Archduke, in which they desired you to give up the places taken, and trust to some petty and uncertain provisions, upon what grounds past experience shows, the king smiled somewhat scornfully, showing that he quite well understood the course of the negotiations. He said that when he left England he was strongly of the opinion that a treaty of peace would be concluded in Spain.

With regard to the differences about the negotiations of Savoy, His Majesty interrupted me at the point that the Spaniards wish to make peace leaving the powers free to remain armed. He declared that this would mean the ultimate ruin of the duke and of the republic. He did not allow me to pursue the thread of my argument, but interrupted, asking whether your Serenity was at open war with the Spaniards. I told him that the Spaniards were doing the worst they could against the republic; there were two fleets at sea, and if they met they would fight, as the Spaniards wished to come and disturb the sea and state of Venice, and our sea captains had instructions to stop their progress by force. The republic was determined upon this, that she might not be exhausted little by little. The king replied, Then there is open war; but the ambassadors have not been recalled? I said that according to my last advices from Italy they remained at their customary residences, the Spaniard at Venice and the Venetian in Spain, and at this point I took up the thread of my discourse again. I said that not only did the negotiations at Madrid show that the Spaniards had no inclination for peace but other signs as well, such as the provisions, plots and snares which I knew that they had prepared some months ago, and when I perceived that some of these things excited His Majesty, I laid the more stress upon them. He was most scandalised by the practices of the duke of Ossuna at Constantinople to excite the Ottomans to attack the states of your Excellencies, who had always served as an outer defence of Christendom, to protect which all Christian princes should be bound to concur out of pious and common interests. The king asked me how many slaves Ossuna had sent to the Grand Vizier. I told him that I thought they numbered about twenty-two or twenty-four. He said that is not many. I added that the Viceroy used these slaves simply as an introduction to the Turkish ministers, to incite whom more powerful inducements were not wanting, such as were sent on purpose with letters, offers, presents and everything that could help.

With regard to the resentment shown by the Spaniards at the going of the Dutch to Venice, His Majesty told me that he had seen the letter written by the duke of Ossuna to the pope, and he quoted

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almost the whole of it to me by heart. He added that our free republic might introduce into her states what troops she pleased; what had the Spaniards to do with it? I urged thereupon that in such a state of affairs powerful and immediate assistance was required and that all the powers who are concerned about the greatness of Spain ought to devote all their forces, and that it became the greatness of His Majesty, his service and his royal promise in particular to do so, and interpose his protecting arm. I told him of the burdens borne by your Excellencies, in the naval preparations, the great assistance given to Savoy, the expenses in Istria, Dalmatia, Friuli and Lombardy, that you could do no more, and were not strong enough to resist the weight of the Spanish attack alone; of your decision to employ your own forces and the favour of friends to repel this assault and recover your original peace. In coming to the principal point of your Serenity's commands I did not neglect to urge him to come to an open declaration in your favour, for the just cause of your Serenity and of the duke of Savoy, with whose consent and co-operation I was acting. I touched upon the interests which compelled him to do so, his obligation and the advantage and glory which he would acquire, the gain which would accrue and the fruit which the mere rumour of it would bring to other princes, who were only awaiting such a declaration to move, the fear which the Spaniards had of it, and the warning it would give them to desist from their violence and let the world enjoy peace again. I urged His Majesty with all my poor ability; he remained silent the while, moving his head as if to show that he approved of all this, and thus giving us courage and occasion to speak freely, although I felt faint from the pain of my hurt, caused by my remaining standing for so long.

When I had finished speaking, the king assumed a royal gravity and addressed me in French in practically the following words: When once before I declared myself for the republic in her tribulations, it was simply out of the goodwill which I felt, and not because she had ever done anything for me. Since that time the republic has always kept up the friendship so auspiciously begun, and has done everything for my gratification, so that now I find myself bound to do what I can for her. Therefore I will now declare myself in her favour, and I will render her every service; but as I am leaving to-morrow, go and see the Secretary Lake and give him a memorial of the way in which this declaration is to be made. You may wait a day or two in Edinburgh for this before returning to England. I cannot delay my journey, but I will send it as soon as possible. I kneeled and kissed his hand, saying that I thanked him warmly in the name of your Serenity for such a gracious expression of his goodwill, by which he increased the indebtedness of the republic, from whom he might always expect a hearty reciprocity of sentiment, which would extend to his successors also. I told him that I would see the Secretary Lake, and took leave.

On the following morning I called on the secretary, just as he was about to leave this city to follow the king. We agreed that I should send back my interpreter with the note, as I have done, and

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I forward a copy to your Excellencies. I thought it would be better to make the declaration thus, to render it more open and more fruitful. I then waited six days for the return of the interpreter, who got back yesterday evening. He brought me the enclosed despatch of the king for the Ambassador Wotton and the accompanying letter of the Secretary Lake for me in reply to my memorial and the note I had written to him to recommend the affair. I send all to your Excellencies, and you will do wisely to send letters immediately to the Ambassador Wotton.

The interpreter told me that the king while travelling had held two councils with the small number of persons who happened to be with him about my affair, so he had been told, in which they decided to reply to the request of your Excellencies in the way that you will hear from the lips of Mr. Wotton. I hope that it may conform to the courteous declaration which the king made to me, though I should have been better pleased had His Majesty decided to send it direct to your Serenity in his own letters, to have something in hand to show; however, for the present I can do nothing more than send this despatch to your Excellencies by express courier as far as France, both because your Serenity directs me to send the king's reply with all diligence, and because as they contain His Majesty's instructions to his ambassador, I do not want the Spaniards to smell them out, and if they went by the usual route of Flanders they might be detained and all the fruits of their labours lost.

The day after to-morrow I propose to cross an arm of the sea and go to Falkland (*Faclang*) where the court will be, to have the actual points which His Majesty has commissioned Mr. Wotton to tell your Excellencies, and to examine into the reasons why he would not declare himself in private letters to your Serenity, and to try that at least he will inform all his ministers throughout the world of his declaration.

Edinburgh, the 16th July, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**829. To the SECRETARY LIONELLO.**

Sir: I have recommended the affair of the Signory to the king with the utmost diligence. I have to inform you that His Majesty finds it more convenient to reply by the mouth of his ambassador, and sends him instructions with which I doubt not the Signory will be greatly satisfied. I send them to you with letters of credence for your servant, so that he may travel with as much ease as before.

Your most affectionate friend and servant,

THOMAS LAKE.

Fauland, the 4th July.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**830. COPY of the MEMORIAL of LIONELLO for the declaration.**

Sire: For the reasons which I laid before your Majesty at the last audience, the republic of Venice in conjunction with the duke



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of Savoy beg you to make a full declaration of your favour towards us in our troubles with the Spaniards.

The most effective form of declaration would be similar to the one made in past years, of which Venice has always preserved a grateful memory.

It would be most helpful if His Majesty in replying to my credentials, which I presented yesterday evening, would include this friendly declaration of his mind.

To direct Sir [Henry] Wotton, his ambassador in Venice, to have audience of His Serenity and set forth this favour which your Majesty affords to the two princes.

To direct your agent in Savoy and all your other representatives with the princes of Europe and especially in Spain to do the like and to notify the Spanish Ambassador in London and the other ministers of princes in England, so that this worthy and glorious resolution may be known to all the world.

[*Italian.*]

July 16.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**831.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

In a few lines I can tell your Excellencies all that the king has done in Scotland. He has simply re-visited the country and summoned a parliament to Edinburgh. That is all and there will be no more. The parliament was announced throughout the kingdom for the 23rd of June, but its opening was prorogued until the 27th, and it rose on the 8th inst., the very day that I entered the city. Those present included fifty-six deputies of the counties and towns, an abbot, two archbishops, eleven bishops, twenty-three barons, three viscounts, eighteen earls, two marquises and a duke, with the king.\* His Majesty went there in state on the first and the last day, riding on horseback, and accompanied by the whole parliament. There was not a single Englishman except the favourite, who rode at his side.

On the first day they remained closeted for eight hours, when His Majesty spoke for an hour and a half with extraordinary eloquence, and other lords delivered various harangues. The assembly met on the succeeding days, His Majesty always being present during the whole time from dinner to night, and sometimes he attended in the morning. Both within and without the Assembly they have laboured hard to advance his designs, but with the very slightest results, so that I can assure your Serenity at the dissolution the king's dissatisfaction with the parliament was as evident as that of the parliament with the king. His chief proposals were the ceremonies and ecclesiastical hierarchy of England, as he wished to be head of the church; the Scots proved themselves unwilling to suffer this, and upon certain occasions they displayed their detestation in the city.

His Majesty proposes that the nobility shall restore to the bishops their goods which they have enjoyed for more than fifty years, and

\* The names of the persons attending this parliament are given in a note to page 156 of the Register of the Privy Council of Scotland, vol. xi.

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which are now considered as their patrimony. However they would not agree to this either, but contented themselves with finding a way for the ministers of the churches to have a better livelihood. He also obtained that the bishops should have a place among the barons and earls and sit in parliament, which they had not done before. In other questions of laws and privileges of the kingdom, with which I need not weary the Senate, which has little concern therein, matters have been arranged partly to the taste of the king and partly to that of the parliament, but everything that has been done really amounts to nothing, and therefore it would have been better if His Majesty had not left England.

For the rest the demonstrations of one nation towards the other have been as warm and friendly as possible, especially that of the nobility, to gratify the king who expressed an earnest wish to this effect, but really the feelings of the English and Scots remain as hostile as ever and indeed it seems as if bringing them together thus has rather increased the hatred and contempt which they have for each other, as the English cannot submit on any account to consider the Scots as equals, while the latter will not yield to them one jot and preserve their lively and habitual contempt and rancour.

With regard to the country I found that England at a distance of from 50 to 60 miles from the frontier, and especially the county of Northumberland, was very poor, uncultivated and exceedingly wretched, while for many miles on the other side of the frontier I seemed to be travelling through uninhabited deserts. This proceeds from the sterility of the ground and also from the perpetual wars with which these nations have savagely destroyed each other.

Edinburgh, the 16th July, 1617.

I have received your Excellencies' letters of the 16th ult. and will use them as I am instructed.

[*Italian.*]

July 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Germania.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**832.** ZORZI GIUSTINIAN, Venetian Ambassador in Germany, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Grave dissensions have broken out in the enemy's camp between Marrada and Dampier. The latter has asked to be relieved of his command. Nothing has been settled as yet, but they propose to give Marrada the 3,000 infantry which belonged to Traumestorf and his 500 horse will be divided, part under the Prince of Saxony and part under an English captain, who is serving Neuburg, or another.

Prague, the 17th July, 1617. *Copy.*

[*Italian.*]

July 19.  
Senato.  
• Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**833.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Sir [Thomas] Stodder writes that he will be ready to start in three days, and the 200 ducats which I have sent will reach him very opportunely.

The Hague, the 19th July, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

1617.  
July 20.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**834.** PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the  
DOGE and SENATE.

The fleet for New Spain remained at Cadiz until the 26th ult. Four galleons accompany it to protect it from pirates. The English ships in the port have been asked to join with the galleons to protect the passage, but they have refused to do so. The secretary of war made the same request in His Majesty's name to the English secretary resident here, but he excused himself, saying that as their ships were merchant vessels they could not engage in this service without risk and he could not give orders for it without instructions from his king.

Madrid, the 20th July, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

July 21.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**835.** To the AMBASSADOR at TURIN.

Yesterday we received news of the capture by the Spanish fleet of two of our galleys laden with merchandise of great value, for Spalato, and of a third which recently left this city with six others, which have escaped, as well as the crews of the three galleys taken. The Spanish galleys, directed undoubtedly by Ragusans, have come straight from Brindisi towards Sebenico behind the rocks, leaving their bertonas at sea, and this has enabled them to commit this act of hostility.

The like to the following :

|         |           |         |
|---------|-----------|---------|
| Prague. | Milan.    | Mantua. |
| Rome.   | Naples.   | London. |
| France. | Florence. |         |
| Spain.  | Zurich.   |         |

Ayes 119.

Noes 0.

Neutral 52.

[*Italian.*]

July 21.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**836.** To the AMBASSADOR at TURIN.

As we wrote recently, the archducal forces crossed the Lisonzo. They decided to take the same way in hope of relieving Gradisca. They crossed at night, but were discovered in the morning. The cavalry molested them somewhat but could not stop them because the infantry did not support them owing to the disobedience of the captains. A remedy will be provided.

The like to :

|            |         |           |         |
|------------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Prague.    | Rome.   | Milan.    | Zurich. |
| The Hague. | Spain.  | Naples.   | Mantua. |
| London.    | France. | Florence. |         |

Ayes 119.

Noes 0.

Neutral 52.

[*Italian.*]

1617.  
 July 23.  
 Senato,  
 Secreta.  
 Dispacci.  
 Inghilterra.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.

**837. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

Last Wednesday I crossed the sea and went to Falkland (*Faclang*) where the Court was, as I wrote on the 16th. I at once set to work to learn the news about the affairs of your Serenity since the king's departure from Edinburgh. I found that before doing anything the king had held a council with a few councillors who happened to be with him, some of whom tried to dissuade His Majesty, arguing that if he declared himself in your favour he would at the same time necessarily declare himself an enemy of the king of Spain before even the republic herself had done so, as although both Venice and the Viceroy of Naples have armed fleets this might be considered the result of mutual suspicion and necessitated by good government, as the Spaniards seeing how much the republic helps Savoy may reasonably suspect some designs upon the kingdom of Naples, and so they think it wise to secure themselves by a strong fleet. This has justly aroused the suspicions of the Venetians, who have armed also, yet without there being any open war between them or the ambassadors being recalled. That the king of France, the princes of Germany, and the States of Holland are more interested and nearer to the danger, and it is only reasonable that they should be the first to provide a remedy. His Majesty might then guide his conduct by their example. Such are the opinions of some of the Council. I do not know whether it is due to their influence or to await a more favourable opening that His Majesty has decided not to make an express declaration for the present, but has committed to the ambassador Wotton those friendly offices with your Excellencies which you will have heard from his lips. He has sent orders to London that one of his Council shall go to see the Spanish ambassador and complain strongly to him of the attitude adopted by the Catholic king not only towards the duke but to the republic also, and to protest that if he does not change this attitude the king will definitely take the side of those powers, because as the friend of the republic he desires to stand side by side with her in all emergencies, and has caused this office to be performed with a very high tone. At the same time he has ordered Sir [John] Digby (*il Cavallier de Ghibi*), who is going to Spain to make strong representations. He has written to the Most Christian king on the subject to discover his opinion and what he proposes to do, as he wishes to act in conjunction with him in the defence of Italy. He has written to his ambassador in Holland to try to strengthen the resolution of the States to give the help asked for by Savoy, and he is writing a special letter to prince Maurice strongly recommending this affair.

I tried to demonstrate to the ministers that an open declaration would be much more useful for our needs than all these offices, but seeing nothing more was to be obtained from them, I asked for a fresh audience of His Majesty. I obtained it yesterday evening in a garden, in the presence of all the English and Scotch nobility, although the king walked apart with me at a considerable distance from the throng, so that they could not hear us. I told him that when I went away from the audience at Edinburgh I felt greatly comforted, as I thought I left His Majesty not only well disposed but determined to gratify the republic by the declaration asked for, but

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*after I had received the despatch from the ambassador Wotton, and sent it by express courier to Venice, I learned that his decision had been quite different, as he had simply been pleased to perform certain offices. For these I thanked him, but I feared that they would not produce nearly the same effect as an open declaration, and therefore I felt somewhat troubled in spirit, feeling that your Excellencies had received a serious prejudice in being deprived of the results which you so eagerly expected from such a declaration, and as my journey to Scotland was already known to all the princes as well as the reasons for it, they would doubtless also be aware of the little I had obtained therefrom, so that well disposed princes, interested in the common cause would faint and lose courage to take any useful decisions, while our enemies will become still more encouraged to continue their violence, the more so because His Majesty did not seem inclined to mix any further in these affairs. I had therefore again desired the honour of kissing his hands and beg him to devote his royal attention to the real of Italy and of the two powers in particular, which esteem him so highly, and that he permit them to enjoy the fruits of his declaration and his assistance, because this is the proper time, and although it would have been better a little earlier, it would prove very effective even now, but if he proposed to put it off for two or three months, as I heard from his councillors, this would simply be letting the present year slip away, in which the differences with the Spaniards were to be decided, because the armies are on foot and already fighting, and the fleets are at sea, so that it it was not likely they would wait long to hear anything fresh, and possibly at the very moment when I was speaking to His Majesty something untoward had happened. Therefore after this year one of two things will certainly have happened, either the two powers will be beyond help owing to the losses which they have suffered, though I pray God this may not happen, and that where His Majesty might now help them with his finger he will not then be able to do so with his hand and arm, or else they will have prospered with the help of France alone, and in both events I foresaw that His Majesty would suffer serious prejudice of great consequence to England as he well recognized, and to leave the king of France to act alone, when he was so young, in a matter of so much importance would not redound to the credit of the king of Great Britain. I therefore begged His Majesty to comfort the two powers by an immediate public declaration, so that they might derive some advantage from it.*

*The king, who had listened attentively to my argument, then began to reply, and continued to speak for more than half-an-hour, and with so much animation of gesture that the lords, who saw him from a distance, were amazed. His most essential points, which he repeated several times in order that I might be the better impressed, were that he was a king, and if he did not wish to be a feeble king, he could not despoil himself of that royal quality, and therefore it behoved them to perform all his actions, and especially the more conspicuous ones, with a due regard for his royal character. In my other audience I had asked him for a declaration in favour of the republic; he had decided to make one, but it was necessary for him to have some something to go upon (un fondamento), upon which he could take his stand, as to declare himself the enemy of Spain without any cause did not seem reasonable. Accordingly he thought it better first to perform a serious office with the king of Spain, and*

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*if this did nothing towards accommodating things, it would at least serve as ground for a declaration, and, in the meantime, by private letters, he would endeavour to do everything that the declaration itself might effect, as in addition to the offices of protest in Spain he had written to Venice as a confirmation and fresh testimony of his favourable disposition; to France to learn distinctly the intentions of the Most Christian, and to join with him, and to Holland to incite them to help the duke, so that he hoped that all the good results which might have come from a piece of paper containing his declaration would arise even better from these strenuous offices, with which he believed I should rest content, and he was sorry to see that it was not so. In reply to my fresh requests he replied that for my greater satisfaction he would willingly make a declaration at once, but that it is impossible, as he is constantly travelling, and does not remain in one place for two days together. The declaration is a thing that is not only to be seen at present by all the world, but which will remain for the censure of posterity, and to make it one needs no small time, and some rest of mind and body; it was not a thing to be done in one day. I had reminded him that a similar declaration had been made against the pope. He had no copy of that here, and the Secretary Winwood was not present, who has all the despatches in his hands. He swore to me by the wounds of Christ that he had been obliged to dictate the letter, word for word, which was written upon that occasion, and he could not do that at a moment's notice; neither would it become his dignity to do it in such a manner, for the world would say that he performed acts of such importance without examination and without taking counsel, as although he is a free king it is his habit to take the opinion of his councillors upon important matters, and they are not here, and I knew well that he did not govern by the advice of his councillors of Scotland. Directly he returned to England he would discuss the matter with his Council and would not only make the declaration but would provide the means to follow it up by action. That as for what I said about delay being prejudicial, I might say that if he had his armies and fleets ready here to send to Italy, but he had none to send out so soon; and what prejudice could the delay of a paper cause if he performed offices equivalent to it; he would make the declaration and in order to word it better, he assured me that he thought over its form several times a day and had already sketched out the beginning in his head, which would run thus: Since I came into my inheritance in England I have maintained a strong friendship with the republic of Venice, having found her always just, of good intentions and living peaceably with her neighbours, so that no one ever has just cause to complain of her; and I hear that the archduke of Carinthia is continually harassing her, and that recently the king of Spain has sent a fleet against her, &c. In the capacity of one who has long since decided to be the friend of her friends and the enemy of her enemies, I have made representations to the king to arrange these differences and to desist from molesting her, and as this has proved fruitless I have decided to declare myself in her favour as I have done previously, &c.*

*His Majesty went on to say that in effect he was compelled to act thus because of his interests with the republic, and not to allow the Spaniards to aggrandise themselves. He would not mind them*

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increasing their state in Africa and against the Turk, but he would not let them do so in Christendom. There were three leading monarchs in Christendom, of whom he was one. The others ought to look carefully to it that no one of them made himself formidable, and he certainly would not neglect to do his part; I had been able to see on my journey how the whole island of Great Britain from one end to the other was faithful to him and well provided with men; he hoped so to unite all the spirits of England, Scotland, and Ireland that neither the Spaniards nor the French nor anyone else shall be able to obtain entrance (*che io ho già potuto veder in questo viaggio come tutta l'isola della Gran Bretagna da un capo all'altro è sua fedele, et ben all'ordine di gente et spera di unire così ben tutti li animi dell'Inghilterra, Scotia et Irlanda che ne Spagnoli ne Francesi ne chi si sia vi potrà haver l'addito*). He would do so abroad, and in Italy no serious war should be made in which he would not have his part. I was not to believe that the marriage negotiations, which rumour reported, or any other interests which he had with Spain would restrain him, as he knew that nation very well and all their tricks. He commanded me to assure your Serenity of his good feeling towards you, and that you will never find a prince more ready or more sincere in your service; that I am to report to you the state in which I find him here, firstly, involved in the affairs of a parliament, which has not given him an hour to breathe until his departure, and further that he has since then been travelling without stopping anywhere, with no councillors near him, and no convenience or means for making the declaration which your Excellencies desire, but that immediately upon his return to England he will discuss it with his Council to satisfy the desire of the republic.

When he had finished speaking I begged His Majesty to excuse me if my eagerness to serve my prince and my knowledge of the urgent needs of Italy had possibly made me more importunate than was becoming, as I well knew the multiplicity of his affairs, how he was in a constant whirl of travel, as I had already informed your Excellencies, and that I felt sure that you would be quite satisfied and also most indebted to His Majesty for so full an expression of his gracious regard, but I hoped His Majesty would keep his eyes constantly fixed upon those parts and his hands ready to quickly raise that province as much as possible from the evils which weigh upon it, by his declaration and assistance, and as His Majesty was at present so occupied in travelling and with other affairs that he could not now do what I had asked him I would not importune him any more, even with my presence, and therefore I humbly took leave to return to England, where I should come to see him once more at a time when the Lords of the Council would also be there.

His Majesty replied that he had never considered my offices importunate, but he praised my zeal for the public service and approved of my project of seeing him again in London, whither he was proceeding himself this time, and that we should meet at a convenient season.

Edinburgh, the 23rd July, 1617.

[Italian; the part in italics deciphered.]

1617.  
July 23.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**838.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Ambassador in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*I have observed in all the offices with His Majesty performed in accordance with the commands of your Excellencies for the common service of yourselves and of the duke of Savoy His Majesty has never given me any answer with respect to the affairs of His Highness and the ministers have said exceedingly little. With regard to the declaration in particular it seems as if they do not think of including the duke. I do not know if this arises from a lack of consideration, or because they think that they are so interested with that prince that a declaration for him would be superfluous, or else they are offended because His Highness has no minister here and nothing is said about it. I make this conjecture because some days ago the Secretary Winwood remarked to Biondi that the duke never wrote or let anything be known of his fortunes, and this is really the case, as since the departure of the Count of Scarnafigi, no advices have ever arrived here from Piedmont in His Highness's name either for the king or even for Biondi, although he bears the name of his minister.*

*His Majesty is going to Woodstock (Ustoch), a place in England seventy miles from London, where he is to arrive on the 16th September, and will be met by the queen, prince, and councillors. One of the ministers has given me to understand that the decision about a declaration may be made there. The time will serve very well, as I shall be able to receive some reply from your Excellencies to my present letters, in which you may be pleased to signify your wishes upon this particular of Savoy, in case they make the declaration without including him. It will relieve me greatly if I know what to do, as if I do not receive orders from you to the contrary, I propose to go myself to meet the king at Woodstock, and I will not leave until something has been decided for the benefit of your interests, and possibly it is not superfluous to hope to obtain something further from His Majesty.*

*I have left Falkland and have returned to Edinburgh. Tomorrow I propose to start on my journey. I have sent these letters by sea to the secretary Surian at the Hague, and I hope that they will reach your Serenity much earlier than if they had gone by way of England. However, I will also send duplicates when I get there.*

The earl of Oxford, the first nobleman of England who holds the title of Lord Chamberlain of the kingdom by inheritance for ever, whose father, though enjoying an income of 150,000 crowns, squandered almost the whole of it and left the son so loaded with debts that he has found it expedient to live at Florence for some years in order to avoid the excessive expenditure<sup>\*</sup> which the court of England involves, and thereby somewhat improve his affairs, has besought the king to grant him facilities to serve your Serenity in the present wars and further to grant him to levy as many troops from the country as your Excellencies may command. His Majesty has been pleased to grant everything and has sent the letters asked for and will allow the levies which may be desired.

<sup>\*</sup> Edward de Vere, earl of Oxford, is said to have threatened to ruin his wife by way of avenging himself on his father-in-law (Burghley) for not using his influence to save the duke of Norfolk. *Dic. Nat. Biog.*



1617.

I hear that the earl is a young man without experience of arms, but as he is a great noble, many gentlemen and people of this kingdom would flock to him if once the drum was beaten in his name.

Edinburgh, the 28rd July, 1617.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

July 24.  
Cons. di X  
Parti  
Secrete.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**839.** ZORZI GIUSTINIAN, Venetian Ambassador in Germany, to the COUNCIL OF TEN.

*I have been advised with great secrecy that a certain Captain Gioan d'Aquin, an Englishman banished from that kingdom and in the pay of Spain, who is now at Venice, is negotiating with the officers and sailors of five English and Dutch ships, of these which brought soldiers and are still in that port, to steal away secretly without the knowledge of their captains with those ships, under some stratagem, to set upon the main deck of some of them, and take them to Trieste or another place of the Archduke, where troops will be ready to man them, with the idea of going buccaneering in the Gulf against the subjects of your Serenity; and that an English Colonel named Mark Grafyn, also banished and in the pay of Spain, and who is now here, has contrived this plot with Ferdinand and obtained patents from him to carry it into execution, under his flag and use his ports and his subjects, and one of these days he is to go to Trieste for the purpose. He has already sent men thither to make preparations and get barques ready to take troops to the ships in case they cannot enter those ports. That Captain d'Aquin has gone to Venice for this purpose, and when he recently fell sick at Trent there went thither from Venice a month ago to find him for this plot one Richard Thornton, master gunner of the said ship and an English pirate, and one Giacomo Garzi, under captain of another ship, also English, with four other minor officers, and that Angelo, a French Provençal, under captain of another of the ships, is also involved, and they count very largely upon him.*

*Captain d'Aquin is lodging in Venice at St. Luca, Ponte dei fuseri, in a hired room, which used to belong to one Giacomo Rossi, who is now dead, or another near by. He is a man of about thirty, of average height, with a short red beard. He dresses in the French style. An Englishman named Gioan de Vechin, a familiar of Aquin and Grafyn, has told me all this. They have negotiated upon all these matters with him, and he has promised to go on the ships with them. Yesterday he left for Venice, whither he is going to see Aquino. I have given him letters for your Excellencies, and he will be able to give you complete information about everything. He is a tall thin man of a florid complexion, and a long red beard. He is going to lodge with Aquino and learn everything. He seems to have a grudge against him. He hopes to receive a reward from your Excellencies for the information. He tells me that Aquino also entered into negotiations upon this with the Archduke Leopold and with a Jesuit, his confessor, and he expects to carry out this design very soon. As he has been a considerable time in Flanders he has many friends and acquaintances among the officers and sailors of these ships. I do not*

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*know the aforesaid Gioanni, who has told me this, or if he is a credible person, but your Excellencies will easily be able to ascertain the truth.\**

Prague, the 24th July, 1617.

[*Italian; deciphered.*]

July 25.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**840.** OTTAVIANO BON and VINCENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The marquis of Lanz has been to thank the ambassador of the States for the decision of his masters in favour of the duke. He took the opportunity to propose the league. The Ambassador Langerach approved of the idea, and said that a league was as necessary in time of peace as in time of war, and he thought it would be easily arranged, the States would readily embrace it, and he would forward it by his representations.

The Marquis told us that he had had a similar conversation with the English ambassador, who also approved, although he did not tell him that he had spoken to Langerach, nor did he tell the latter of his conversation with England. His idea was to negotiate first with the States and afterwards with the Protestant princes, because they would undoubtedly see the king of Great Britain at the back of the latter.

The Count Palatine has gone to Sedan to see the duke of Bouillon, his near relation, and to remove the suspicions which his visit might cause he has written asking the English ambassador to inform the ministers here about it. He has done so, but the Court remains suspicious all the same.

Paris, the 25th July, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

July 25.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**841.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Pasini has received the 200 ducats which I sent for Sir [Thomas] Stodder. He tells me that he was also molested by the agent of England, but he expects to be free in four or five days. His letter is dated on the 20th.

The Hague, the 25th July, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

July 28.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**842.** To the AMBASSADOR at the IMPERIAL COURT.

The Ambassador Gritti writes that the duke of Lerma has resumed the negotiations for peace and there remains but little difficulty upon the affair of the Uscocchi. But as the Spaniards refused to agree to a general disarmament, nothing could be arranged. The French ambassador came into our Cabinet with the enclosed articles, urging us to accept them as the point of the Uscocchi was settled and with regard to Savoy the treaty of Asti should be executed, as the Catholic king promised to disarm if the nuncio and the French

\* The decipher is preserved in Senato, Secreta, Comunicazioni dal Cons. de X.

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ambassador assured him that Savoy had effectively disarmed. We have represented everything to the duke of Savoy, in concert with whom we carry on all negotiations. We replied to France that as regards the Uscocchi we would accept the mediation of His Most Christian Majesty, but there were the damages inflicted by the Spaniards at sea during negotiations, without any provocation on our part, and we should require guarantees and disarmament both by land and sea. The French ambassador replied that the disbanding of the fleet was contained in the articles, and the Spanish ambassador offered restitution of the goods taken as not being acquired in legitimate war. In reply we re-asserted our desire if it were assured and general. He asked what promises and guarantees we desired from the Most Christian King. We said that as we would promise His Majesty to observe what was agreed upon, so we desired his word that Ferdinand and the Catholic king should observe what was agreed, and this would include the guarantee for the restitution of the galleys. Such is the present state of the negotiations. We can say no more until we hear from the duke of Savoy.

The like to Florence, Mantua, Naples.

To England and the Hague, adding you will keep this to yourself and say nothing to anyone.

To Rome without the articles, which were sent before.

To Prague in addition a copy of the negotiations contained in the Spanish letters.

Ayes 167.

Noes 0.

Neutral 4.

[*Italian.*]

July 28.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**843.** To the SECRETARY in ENGLAND.

The Spanish fleet appeared on the 18th in sight of Liesena. Our fleet put to sea and each manœuvred to get to windward of the other, but night fell and in the morning the Spaniards had disappeared. Our fleet returned to Liesena, and learned that they were returning thither with a wind favourable to them but not to us. They did not approach, but turned towards Dalmatia, where they took the merchant ships before our fleet could learn their whereabouts. On the 22nd we heard that they were returning to Brindisi, while our fleet was at sea between Spalato and Sebenico.

In Friuli on the night of the 22nd the enemy attacked four redoubts guarded by Dutch troops and captured two after a long struggle. They were repulsed from our fort upon Rubia with great loss.

The like to :

|         |            |           |
|---------|------------|-----------|
| Turin.  | France.    | Milan.    |
| Rome.   | Spain.     | Naples.   |
| Prague. | the Hague. | Florence. |
|         |            | Zurich.   |

Ayes 158.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

1617.

July 29.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacoi,  
Costant.  
Venetian  
Archives.**844.** ALMORO NANI, Venetian Ambassador in Constantinople, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*The affairs of the English merchant, upon which a gentleman of the king came here to seek redress, has never been settled, after various postponements, so that the gentleman has left recently without taking back any reply to His Majesty's letter. With him went the English merchant, who suffered so severely in his property and health that the doctors say that he will not live long. Before leaving this merchant came to call upon me. After the compliments he said that as he was going away he had come to get some decision about the promise which I had made at the beginning of the troublesome affair of the Archenda. I replied that every promise was a debt but that information was necessary and I did not see how it could be obtained so soon, as I heard that Cariati of Zante was dead, who bought a part of the Archenda, and the English merchant who bought the other part is also dead, and I was sorry he had not spoken to me about it before. He replied showing that my obligation was for the whole of the Archenda and not for a part. I would not admit this, because I said that if the name of a subject of Zante had not been mixed up in this, I should have had no reason to fear any ill.*

*He then told me that he had spent some ducats upon the hire of the Archenda and for the custom, and these ought to be included in my obligation. I said that I had only proposed to guarantee the portion which had been bought by Cariati, and therefore it was important that I should be informed of his share, and I added that as the affair was not near a settlement at the time of his departure he should leave instructions with the English ambassador, with whom, I assured him, there would be no difference. With that he departed. On the following day he sent me the bills of lading and the expenses upon the hire, amounting to a total of 146 thalers, and a note of the weight of the Archenda, namely 565 tons (cantara), but not stating the price, I think because he did not know it, as in previous discussions he did not seem to know much about it. The merchant departed leaving the affair unfinished, and I thought that he had left instructions with his ambassador, but when I recently went to see the latter he never referred to it and neither did I, so that I hope the affair may end in silence, in which I shall recognise the grace of God to me.*

*Upon this occasion I had various discussions with the ambassador. Among other things he told me that the secretary of state had written telling him that His Majesty's ambassador was leaving for Spain about the marriage which had been under negotiation for a long time. but he thought that it would have no results, being negotiated by a person who was much inclined to that party, and who had formerly been ambassador at that Court. He added that he was a member of His Majesty's Council and no one in that position had ever previously been sent as ambassador. Upon this same subject the ambassador of Flanders told me recently that the king of England, before leaving for Scotland, had sent for the ambassador of the States and said to him: You have some suspicion that a marriage may take place between the Crown of Spain and ours; but rest assured, for I know that it will prove very prejudicial both to your States and to my kingdom, and it will not take place, but it is impossible to be so discourteous as to refuse to listen to*

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*the proposals of a great prince. He told me also that he was advised that when his masters sent an agent to the king of Spain to make complaints, it not being their custom to send an ambassador there, they not only told him not to come to the Court, but to leave the kingdom immediately, for so His Majesty's service required (so che voi havete qualch' sospetto che possa seguir matrimonio tra la Corona di Spagna et questa, tuttavia potete assicurarsi che conoscendo io che da ciò ne riuscirebbe pregiudo notabilissimo non meno alli vostri Stati che al mio regno che non sia pro seguire, non si può però trattandosi di un Principe Grande per non mostrar sprezzo ricusar d'ascoltare, mi disse appresso che col l'ultimo dispaccio haveva havuto aviso che havendo li suoi signori mandato un Comiss<sup>o</sup> al Re di Spagna per far dirersi condoglienze, non accostumando loro di mandarle Ambr, le han fatto saper che non solo non venghi alla corte ma che im<sup>te</sup> se ne esca dal Regno perche cosi conviene al servizio di S. Ma<sup>te</sup>.)*

Dalle Vigne di Pera, the 29th July, 1617.

[Italian ; deciphered.]

July 31.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Germania.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**845.** ZORZI GIUSTINIAN, Venetian Ambassador in Germany, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Prainer is still here, and no decision has as yet been taken about his going to the camp. As regards the regiment for which he is asking, the Cardinal has told him that the Emperor will fill up that of Stodder to 3,000 under his charge, but this is not credited.

Prague, the last day of July, 1617. *Copy.*

[Italian.]

Aug. 1.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Francia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**846.** OTTAVIANO BON and VINCENZO GUSSONI, Venetian Ambassadors in France, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The Marquis of Lanz told our Secretary that he had been to visit the English ambassador, who said he had remarked to the Count Palatine that it would be advisable for the Protestant Princes of Germany to help the duke of Savoy with men or money, and had so worked upon him that the count had left Sedan determined to urge the other princes to declare for His Highness. He added that *he had touched upon the question of a league with England, the States and the princes of Germany, if we find that there is anything serious in this, we will send further information when we are better informed.*

Paris, the 1st August, 1617.

[Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.]

Aug. 1.  
Inquisitori di

Stato,  
Dispacci  
da Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**847.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Secretary in Naples, to the INQUISITORS OF STATE.

*I have heard that the English Consul and one Messia of the household of the Spanish ambassador have written here that the statue of the duke of Ossuna has been broken up and burned at Venice, at which His Excellency seems much enraged.*

Naples, the 1st August, 1617.

[Italian ; deciphered.]

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Aug. 1.  
Cons. de' X.Parti  
Comuni.  
Venetian  
Archives.**848.** That leave be granted to Sig. Gieronimo Venier to confer twice with the ambassador of England, to let him his house.

Ayes 16.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 2.

Collegio.  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.**849.** The AMBASSADOR of ENGLAND came into the CABINET and spoke as follows :

I bring with me a distinguished prince of the Empire, the duke of Radzivil, half Pole and half German, whose brother is generalissimo of the king of Poland against the Muscovites and has also commanded 5,000 to 6,000 horse. He will bind himself to bring 6, 8 or 10,000 men to the service of your Serenity, bringing them by ships of Pomerania. I intended to negotiate about this, but I gave up the idea because I understand that your Serenity is confident of peace. I am afraid of the effect that my speech may have, but I hope your Serenity will receive it as I intend. The share of my king in these affairs since the beginning has been such that he deserves to be considered. If it seems that the offices of France and of the Nuncio, with whom I am incompatible, do not allow me to take part, yet my king deserves consideration because he has consistently behaved well. The duke of Savoy has always styled him friend in the discussions of the ambassadors, he has negotiated for a closer union and has all but obtained it. The king interested himself in the treaty of Asti has supplied money and sent him a ship with munitions. It is not much but the consequences are considerable. He has favoured him with the Palatine and with the princes of the Union. The States decided to give him 50,000 florins a month, and the princes will also be obliged to do something. His Majesty finally was the means of arranging an accommodation between the duke and the Swiss Bernese who would not have acceded without this, and he received a succour of 3,000 men from them. His Majesty has consistently maintained the justice of the cause of the republic, and that she was entirely justified in taking arms to repress those robbers the Uscocchi. He has recommended by his letters the duke of Saxony, the earl of Oxford (Ostoch), lord Dingwall and a captain who is now in the camp, with permission to levy troops in his realm. He has also offered to interpose for union with the princes of Germany. I therefore think that your Serenity cannot leave His Majesty out of account in these negotiations.

I will now say why I am dubious about peace. Suppose some one says in the Council of His Catholic Majesty, Your Majesty desires the peace of Italy, and knows that the unquiet spirits of Savoy disturb it. Now Vercelli, the key of Piedmont is in your hands, it were well to keep it. This reasoning is certain to have great weight with a race which clings tenaciously to what it has taken. The example of the duchy of Siena is a warning. Even if they restore it they will keep the bridles, Porto Hercole, Orbatello and other fortresses. A better means of defence seems to me, as I have insisted upon other occasions, to bind yourselves with the

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princes of Germany. That will include the king of Great Britain, the towns of Germany, the States, the Swiss and the Grisons; what power can be greater than these? This will be a better means of securing peace.

I will add another thing. Three days ago I saw a friend who has resided a year with the princes of the Union and has come here to act as tutor to the prince of Anspach who is at Padua. I asked him why they did not keep up a resident for the princes. He replied, because no one was sent from here in answer. I should like to see this done. The resident of your Serenity might live at Spire or some other place of the Palatinate where both religions are practised. There would be no scandal and great service. I have another thing to say, not from the king, but of myself. I do not know why at such a time the court of His Majesty remains without an ambassador from this republic, especially as in France they have not only the ordinary but an extraordinary one. His Majesty expects to be in England in a fortnight and he will spend a month at London.

I have two offices to perform. An English ship called *Alitea* has been here a month. It is going to Zante for cargo and will then continue its voyage. Let your Serenity make use of it for the service of S. Marco, as Ossuna has taken some by force while this will serve for friendship. But they say that your Serenity has superabundant forces, while Ossuna wishes to withdraw his and restore the booty. If that is so I beg you to release it, but otherwise to use it and in any case to come to a decision.

The other affair is to recommend that English captain. He offers to raise new troops; those which he now has can be put under a new leader.

The doge replied thanking the ambassador, whose representations they valued. They had no information about the ship and the captain, but would procure it. An ambassador has been chosen. The reasons which have delayed his departure are manifest.

The ambassador replied saying he had met the envoy selected at Turin, and was sure he would give great satisfaction.

The Procurator Nani said that they had decided that on the return of His Majesty, there should be an ambassador accredited to him at the court.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 2.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**850.** PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.

All foreign vessels have been arrested at Cartagena by order of His Majesty, and the French ambassador with all his efforts, has not been able to obtain the release of those of his countrymen.

The fleet left at last for New Spain on the 16th ult. It was not accompanied by the English ships, as they tried to arrange here.

Madrid, the 2nd August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

1617.

Aug. 2.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci.  
Spagna.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**851. PIERO GRITTI.** Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the  
DOGE and SENATE.

In a few days they expect the ambassador of England here, who is sent to negotiate upon the affairs of Savoy, as was announced. Many believe, however, that he is coming chiefly for the marriage, the negotiations for which have been steadily kept alive by the English secretary here, and it is thought now to be in very good train. The secretary who came to tell me of the expected arrival of the ambassador and of the instructions which he brings to facilitate the conclusion of peace, did not hide from me that he also had orders to treat for the marriage. He added that so many difficulties presented themselves in this matter upon the subject of religion that he did not hope for any success.

Madrid, the 2nd August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 2.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**852. ANTONIO DONATO,** Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to  
the DOGE and SENATE.

News has arrived from the Senator Montu reporting the decision of the States to give the duke 200,000 florins for four months. At the same time letters have come from Giovanni Francesco Biondi from England, reporting the great concern with which the king there had heard of the storming of Vercelli, and speaking of their hopes of assistance. They also cherish some hopes of the princes of Germany. Accordingly all thought of peace is laid aside.

Chivasso, the 2nd August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 4.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives

**853.** That the following be read to the ENGLISH AMBASSADOR :

We have recently heard from Spain that the negotiations for peace have been resumed there by means of the nuncio and especially of the French ambassador, while the agent of the king of Great Britain confidently communicated to our ambassador some conversation held with him by the duke of Lerma upon present affairs. We founded no great hopes upon this, but recently the Most Christian ambassador has spoken more clearly, presenting articles, which may be those your Excellency has seen, for settling the affair of the Uscocchi and affirming that His Catholic Majesty would agree to the execution of the treaty of Asti. We replied that we could decide nothing without the duke of Savoy, but if he was satisfied we would accept the articles provided a general settlement were made at the same time with general restitution and guarantees. We sent this week to Savoy and France and we impart this to the king of Great Britain because of his great share in these affairs, especially the treaty of Asti. We shall be most grateful for the continuation of his offices and influence, and we have instructed our secretary to inform him of everything as a sign of our perfect confidence and of our esteem for him.

With regard to the other considerations, we have always had the best relations with the princes of Germany and we cherish the



1617.

kindest feelings towards them, and if something appears of the feeling of His Majesty in the matter and the affair is likely to prove successful, and the princes, states and republics named by him concur, we will show our devotion to all that concerns the public weal.

Sig. Lenchio was welcomed and honoured here when he was staying for some affairs of the princes<sup>o</sup> and we are satisfied with the good treatment of our ambassadors and secretaries recently sent to the princes.

The ambassador Donato chosen to reside with His Majesty, would have left long since for his charge if he had not been prevented by the important affairs, which you know of, but we will soon select a person to go to His Majesty and bear witness to our singular affection and esteem.

The ship of which your Excellency spoke would have already joined our service if the captain had accepted the reasonable terms taken by the others, and it was not proper to allow it to leave because it was to serve to our prejudice. A decision will soon be taken so that you shall be satisfied in one way or another.

We have very recent letters from Scotland from our secretary, who writes that he represented to His Majesty the state of current affairs and the imminent peril to the duke of Savoy, to us and to all this province from the Spanish arms, and that he had received most courteous replies from His Majesty and the ministers; we thank His Majesty heartily, and we shall always be responsive to his friendly offices.

Ayes 79.

Noes 8.

Neutral 61.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 4.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

#### 854. To the SECRETARY LIONELLO.

We send you a copy of the last exposition of the English ambassador and the reply we have given him. We direct you to communicate to His Majesty the two parts referring to the treaty of peace and the sending of an ambassador. You will use the rest for information and as a guide if anyone speaks to you, but not otherwise. You will communicate about the treaty of peace so that it may seem to have originated with the Ambassador Wotton, but that it is not settled and has been confided to him to have the honour of his offices which have great weight owing to his greatness and wisdom.

This morning we had your letters of the 16th July with news of your dealings with His Majesty and the reply given. We have thought fit to pass the office with the ambassador of which we enclose a copy although he has not yet had audience; it will possibly be to-morrow. There is nothing further of importance, but meanwhile do not neglect the general office, urging it earnestly.

Ayes 79.

Noes 8.

Neutral 61.

[*Italian.*]

\* John Baptist Lenk. See Vol. XI of this Calendar, and Janssen's *History of the German People* (Eng. trans.), Vol. X. p. 444.

1617.

Aug. 5.

Collegio.

Secreta.

Esposizioni

Principi.

Venetian

Archives.

**855.** The AMBASSADOR of ENGLAND was sent for to the CABINET, and the deliberation of the Senate of yesterday was read to him, and re-read at his request; he said:

I observe with pleasure the complete understanding in these matters between the ambassador of your Serenity in Spain and the minister of my king. I am also impressed by the ambassador of France insisting upon the execution of the treaty of Asti, with the restitution of the places occupied both before and after that settlement. It is the principal point. The treaty ought not to be called in doubt, but the subsequent events at Vercelli, San Germano and elsewhere require a codicil. The point about the constant union between your Serenity and the duke of Savoy has afforded me great consolation, and I will publish it abroad. I need only refer to the magnanimity of the republic in refusing to settle its own affairs without establishing those of His Highness. As for the ship, there is, I understand, the example of your having released two French and one German. We do not expect less favour. If you suspect that this ship is going into the service of enemies, sureties will be given, and I am sure that the men will rather die than surrender, except to force, and of that there is little fear, as the seas are less infested at present.

If your Serenity had not sent for me, I should have asked an audience, as an express despatch has come from my king. He tells me that the Secretary Lionello went to Scotland after him, and had overtaken him at Edinburgh, where although he was not entertained as befits a minister of this republic, owing to the narrowness of the city, the confusion of the court and the mixture of nations, yet he was welcomed and heard by the king most graciously. His Majesty sends letters which I beg to communicate.

Jacobus etc. Domino Joanni Bembo Venetiarum Duci.

Letteras Vestras nona die mensis Junii datas reddidit nobis minister vester Joannes Baptista Lionellus. Ad exitum vero colloquii pacis quod attinet molestum sane nobis est illud non secundum votum vestrum nostrumque successisse. Non est enim alius in amicitiiis vestris, qui plus sentiat ea, quae vobis molesta eveniunt quam nos, aut qui jura amicitiae promptius exequatur cum opportunum erit, quod vobis prolixius exponet legatus noster qui apud vos est; cui ut fidem habeatis rogamus.

Datum e Palatio nostro Edinburgensi, 4 die Julii, Anno Domini 1617.

Jacobus Rex.

The ambassador then said, I propose to do what possibly no other ambassador has done here, to proceed *apertis tabulis* and read to you the instructions themselves. The letters are of the 4th of July and unsigned, as the king is not accustomed to sign with his subjects. He then began to read: "The Secretary of the republic resident here since the death of the last ambassador has come hither post. He has related the evil turn of the affair with Spain and the hostile actions of her ministers. He has asked for an open declaration of friendship for the republic not inferior to what was done in past years. With regard to this request there are two things to be considered, one that such a request should be made

1617.

before anything was heard from you, who, as our ambassador, ought to have been informed of anything of the sort." Upon this point some comment is needed. I promised your Serenity to faithfully represent to the king the affairs with which you charged me. There never is and never will be any greater difference between me and your ministers than there is between two well adjusted clocks which may not always strike exactly together, but show the same time. But either I must complain of your Serenity or else my memory is at fault, as when the document was read to me I certainly think I expressed the declaration of His Majesty against the arms of the Catholic in the very terms in which they were prescribed to me. The diligence of Sig. Lionello has forestalled me, though I sent an express. It is true that I sent my messenger to the Secretary of State at London. Possibly he wished to be the bearer of the news to the king. The second matter is that when asked Sig. Lionello admitted that the republic had an ambassador in Spain and the Catholic king has an ambassador here, and it seemed strange that when there was thus no sign of an open rupture they should ask the king to declare against Spain. "However, we do not wish your lordships to imagine that our love is less than upon other occasions, even if we do not quite know in what form to make such a declaration. We ask you to inform his Serenity that the republic will find in us the same constant affection as has always been displayed. As for the present declaration you will add that as we are now in a very remote country, not staying for much more than a night in any one place, separated from the greater part of our council and ministers and without any papers, we shall need time in order to determine the precise form. We have sent to our extraordinary ambassador in Spain that as soon as he arrives he shall inform the king of the violent proceedings of his ministers in Italy, especially against the republic and Savoy, and represent how much this will arouse the suspicions of the other princes of Christendom, especially ourselves, who are so nearly bound to the republic. That he shall then speak for peace with honourable conditions and ask him to instruct his ministers to desist, as many princes begin to take alarm and they will oppose them, and we shall certainly not be the last among them. If they continue their violent measures we will declare our friendship for the republic in the desired manner."

The ambassador then said: That is the extent of my commission, the substance of the rest is that the republic possibly committed an error in not listening to the proposal for a closer union, for if they had, those who now move with so much harshness would perhaps have shown themselves more peaceful and reserved:

The doge said: With regard to the ship, we never believed that it was going for the service of Spain against us. But it appears there was a fear that she might be taken by force and compelled to do so. However, we shall not neglect to come to some decision satisfactory to you. With regard to the other matters, we are much beholden to the king for his continued friendship; His Majesty's intent to alleviate the present troubles is worthy of his greatness, we thank him heartily.

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The ambassador made fresh requests with regard to the ship, and departed.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 7.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Germania.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**856.** ZORZI GIUSTINIAN, Venetian Ambassador in Germany to the DOGE and SENATE.

Prainer has left for Vienna, with nothing settled about his command. The 500 horse paid by Spain which were first under Marrada have been at length divided, 400 being placed under an English Colonel called Marsam, who left for the camp yesterday, the other hundred under the Prince of Saxony, to whom the Archduke Ferdinand has promised to give a hundred more.

Prague, the 7th August, 1617. *Copy.*

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 8.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**857.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

On the arrival of the ordinary from Italy, *M. Vandermyle* sent to know if I had any reply from your Serenity to the *proposals for a league made by him for M. Barnevelt*. I made excuses for the delay. He went on to urge several arguments in favour of the league. After the conversation I discovered that he had instructions to speak in this way, although he seemed to be speaking for himself. Some of the lords said that the republic ought to propose what it thinks would be best as they had done the like in England and France during their troubles.

*Yesterday evening the Resident Sticke told me that the deputies of Guelders and Overysael had orders to consent if the republic negotiated for a league. I believe that if your Serenity gives me definite instructions the league will result, but the need for secrecy is the greater, for I feel sure that the French have a shadow of suspicion and the English too, and they, either separately or together will try to upset the result, so that the affair should be conducted with speed and caution.*

The Hague, the 8th August, 1617.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Aug. 8.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Signori Stati.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**858.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

*M. Barnevelt* asked me where Castiglione might be. I said there were several, but I supposed the one in question to be near the Veronese. He said he heard that the Spaniards were putting a garrison there and that ought to open the eyes of your Serenity. I found that the English ambassador had heard of this, I suppose from Mr. Wotton. I visited that ambassador the other day. He asked me if I knew that the Secretary Lionello had returned from Scotland. I replied that I had received word of his leaving Edinburgh. After a few words he went on, I am astonished that the republic does not keep an ambassador with my master in these troublous times. I replied that one had been selected, but he had affairs in hand affecting the general interests, and he was

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also very ill, and that was the reason for his delay. He replied : That is true, and princes do not usually remove such ministers. He then asked if it were true that Sig. Simon Contarini was going to the princes of Germany, as he was informed. I said that I had no particulars.

The Hague, the 8th August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 10.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Dispacci.  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**859.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

In conformity with your commands I send to your Serenity the account of the expenses incurred upon the journey to Scotland, from the 9th June, and beg you to have the mandate ballotted.

London, the 10th August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

**860.** Account of expenses incurred by me, Giovanni Battista Lionello, in going post to Scotland, staying there and returning :

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <i>s.</i> | <i>d.</i> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| By four horses from London to Edinburgh, and from Edinburgh to London by the posts, 600 miles going and returning, at three-pence (penini) per mile, per horse, according to the general custom of the kingdom | 600       | 0         |
| By the usual gratuities to the postillions, sixpence each for sixty posts, going and returning                                                                                                                 | 30        | 0         |
| By the usual gratuities at the stables for sixty posts at fourpence each                                                                                                                                       | 20        | 0         |
| By the usual gratuities to the post women for sixty posts at fourpence each                                                                                                                                    | 20        | 0         |
| By expenses at inns and other extraordinary expenses of the journey going                                                                                                                                      | 96        | 8         |
| By the same expenses in returning, which took more time                                                                                                                                                        | 116       | 4         |
| By lodging and expenses at the court at Edinburgh, two days                                                                                                                                                    | 164       | 0         |
| By sending two messengers to the court at Falkland                                                                                                                                                             | 8         | 0         |
| By sending the interpreter to follow the court to Falkland five days                                                                                                                                           | 42        | 0         |
| By going myself to the king at Falkland, in crossing the sea and horses                                                                                                                                        | 26        | 6         |
| By lodging and board for four days at Falkland                                                                                                                                                                 | 65        | 0         |
| By returning from Falkland to Edinburgh                                                                                                                                                                        | 25        | 0         |
| By lodging and board at Edinburgh for three days                                                                                                                                                               | 45        | 0         |
| By presents to the king's guard who accompanied me                                                                                                                                                             | 22        | 0         |

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|                                                                                 | s.    | d. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|
| By the other servants of the king who were engaged in finding me lodgings - - - | 11    | 0  |
| By the interpreter for putting things in order for the journey - - - - -        | 40    | 0  |
| Total - - - - -                                                                 | 1,381 | 0  |

equalling £66 sterling 11 shillings.

The £66 11s. at the rate of exchange current on the last day of June, which amounted to 57 pence the Venetian ducat of good money, make ducats 280, lire 1, soldi 10.

[Italian.]

Aug. 11.  
Cons. di X  
Parti  
Secreta.  
Venetian  
Archives

**861.** That the letter of our ambassador in Germany of the 24th July last be communicated by a Secretary of this Council to the Savii of our Cabinet, after enjoining secrecy, and that a copy be left for their information. The letters relate what Givan de Uchin told the ambassador about the proposal of Captain Givan de Aquin, an Englishman, who is negotiating with the officers and sailors of five English and Dutch ships, to take them to Trieste, raise troops and go buccaneering against the subjects of the republic, by an arrangement made between Mark Graffin, an English Colonel, and the Archduke Ferdinand, which also names Richard Zorton, master gunner, and an English pirate, Giacomo Garzi, under captain and Angelo a Provençal of France, also under captain, all belonging to the said ships.\*

Ayes 18.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

It was communicated to the Savii, and a copy left with Hieronimo Cavazza, the secretary.

[Italian.]

Aug. 11.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispanoi,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**862.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

On my return from Scotland I found your Serenity's letters of the 14th, 28rd and the 30th of June with the current news, and two others of the 5th July with the remarks of the Senate upon the negotiations in Spain, which I will use when I have an opportunity, and a copy of the office performed by the agent of England with the duke of Savoy and the reply of your Serenity to the Ambassador Donato. In this connection I will relate the contents of two despatches which have recently come from this agent in Turin to His Majesty. In the first he writes that he has had audience of His Highness in the presence of the ambassador of Venice, when the duke charged him with four points, to thank His Majesty for the munitions sent; thank him for the negotiations with the Bernese; offer excuses for giving powers to the Venetian

\* Also found in Senato, Secreta. Comunicazioni dal Cons. de' X. The letter will be found at page 557 above, No. 839.

1617.

ambassador in Spain to negotiate for peace without previously informing His Majesty, saying that it was owing to shortness of time, when His Highness could not do less than follow the advice of the republic. The fourth point was that as His Majesty had always said that a defensive war was an expensive one he had sent for the Ambassador Donato, so that that agent might be the more assured of the deliberate decision of both powers, namely, that if they saw that peace was hopeless, they would wage a resolute offensive war, and he hoped that His Majesty would favour them with his assistance according to the intentions which he had expressed, etc. The agent added that as His Highness had separated himself from His Majesty by treating for peace and war without telling him anything about it, His Majesty considered himself released from all his promises, but nevertheless the agent promised to write back all that he had heard.

The last despatch of the 8th ult. came yesterday. The agent writes that Vercelli was considered lost owing to the lack of provisions. They attribute this entirely to the Venetians, because to please them the duke agreed to pay attention to the peace proposed by them in Spain and abandoned the proposals of intervention made by others, which being quite reasonable would certainly have been accepted, and Piedmont would have escaped this danger. I combat these and similar ideas with weighty arguments, but they are bound to do some harm, as one falsehood in the air counts more with the ill-disposed than ten well-grounded truths.

The ambassador Wotton also writes occasionally, but simply speeches, whereby he has become so obnoxious that his letters sometimes remain three or four days upon Winwood's table without being read, and when they are read they are treated with contempt. (*Il Sig. Ambr. Uton scrive ancor lui qualche volta, ma semplici discorsi, con quali è venuto così a noia, che le sue lettere dimorano tal volta tre e quattro giorni sopra la tavola del Vinut senza esser lette, et leggendosi vengono sprezzate.*)

I have seen Winwood and told him about all my experiences in Scotland, assuring him that all my hopes rested upon him, so that when he sees the king the numerous words spoken may be translated into acts. He promised to act for me and I know that he will do what lies in him, because he is the open enemy of the Spaniards and every day finds him more drawn towards our side, so that we may call him the chief protector of our cause. He is always anxious for the news of those parts and would like to see the affairs of your Serenity and the duke prospering. Accordingly it is a good thing to keep him in this frame of mind, as there is no lack of enemies. A gentleman told me that the earl of Suffolk, the Lord Treasurer, when I went to Scotland, said Lionello has gone to the king to get him to make a declaration, but he will not obtain anything, because the king will not meddle with those affairs and if he asked my advice I should counsel him never to intermeddle in the affairs of Italy in which we can have no interest. Many others also are strongly opposed to the desires of your Serenity, so that if you think fit to show some sign of gratitude to Winwood through me, I should consider it a wise step. The duke of Savoy, at the very beginning sent him some furniture for his rooms, and gave orders to the

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*count of Scarnafigi to distribute 60,000 crowns between him and some others if the 400,000 crowns promised were obtained from the king (se paresse di usar altra dimostrazione di gratitudine col detto Vinut per me crederei ottimo consiglio. Il Sig. Duca di Savoia le mandò sin nel principio alcuni fornimenti di camera, et fra lui et alcuni altri aveva risolto et dato ordine al Conté di Scarnafigi di distribuir sessanta mille scudi se si ottenevano dal Re li quattro cento mille promessi).*

The decision of the Senate to have an ambassador here for the king's return has been very prudent, and in the present exigencies may be of great help. I have not spoken to anyone before I knew further particulars and have orders to do so.

They begin to speak of a parliament in England to find a way of paying the king's debts, which exceed three millions. Many think that all the marriage negotiations which His Majesty is keeping on foot in Spain are simply in order to reduce the kingdom to the necessity of providing the money, because if he tells the parliament that if they do not pay his debts he will be compelled to take a Spaniard, for the sake of her dower, it is universally thought that the people will rather agree to make a grant, and possibly he proposes to employ the same means to support his declarations and promises to Italy with resolute action, but at present nothing can be done except to allow some days to slip by. (*Si comincia a parlar di un parlamento in Inghilterra per trovar modo di pagar i debiti del Re, che passano tre milioni, et rien creduto da molti che tutta la pratica di matrimonio che mantien S.M. in piedi con Spagna non è per altro fine che per condur il Regno in necessità di procederlo de denari, perche quando dichi al parlamento che non volendo pagarli i debiti sara necessitato di prender una Spagnuola, per valerse della dote, credesi universalmente che il popolo consentirà più tosto a qualche concessione et forse anco che questi saranno i mezzi che si disegna ritrovare por poter sostentar con li veri effetti le sue dechiarationi et promesse in servizio d'Italia, per hora non si può altro fare, che lasciar correr qualche giorno.*)

The ambassador of the States has commissions to report to the king the decision of his masters with respect to the affairs of Savoy and to urge him to do something himself. Because formerly His Majesty passed offers with them, which were of great value, as now appears, and now they think they are bound to be the intercessors in their turn to His Majesty, and it ought to be a strong stimulus to him for the sake of his reputation.

London, the 11th August, 1617.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Aug. 11.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

863. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Digby has left for Spain, but he will not go to his ship unless he first receives a new despatch from the king. Meanwhile reports are current that the Infanta, about whom they are negotiating, has been asked in marriage by a son of the new king of Bohemia, and



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they will very probably accept, as the Catholic king would profit greatly by thus uniting in close relationship the two branches of the House of Austria, so far as can be seen that son will become a great prince, as in time the imperial dignity and all the patrimony of that house will come to him.

My impression becomes continually stronger that His Majesty is exceedingly wroth with the Archduke Albert because of the book\* and the fruitless mission of the Ambassador Bennet, and on his return from Scotland he may perhaps show his feeling publicly. The archduke on the other hand declares himself highly dissatisfied with Bennet for having issued very bitter words in Flanders and in the presence of his councillors. Among other things he said that Brussels was a sewer and sink of every kind of treason. The archduke's agent at this Court has orders to make grave complaints about this on His Majesty's return. I understand that another book has appeared in France against the king here even worse than the Flanders one.

Very momentous also is the recent news of an encounter which took place on the 22nd August of last year between the English and a Portugese carrack, near the coast of Mombaza in the East Indies. After resisting for some days the carrack became fixed between two rocks and was burned by the Portugese themselves. 150 of those on board were drowned, and the rest numbering 500 [were captured] together with the greater part of the cargo. The Spanish ambassador has orders to complain about it the more so because the English merchants say that they did it with the permission of His Majesty, who gave them leave to avenge themselves for the injuries received in those parts and elsewhere from the Portugese and Spaniards.

*Letters have come from His Majesty from Scotland that the Jesuit prorost of San Fedele at Milan has published to four leading men of the Council nominated by His Majesty the reason for his coming and everything that he proposed to tell to the king himself. I have not all the particulars as yet. I have only been able to gather that he disclosed a conspiracy arranged in the lifetime of the Marshal of Ancre, between the pope, the Spaniards, and the Queen Mother against the realm and the person of the king of England himself. To carry this into execution they were to send hither under the guise of friendship, a great prince of France, one of the kin of the king here, who could be none other than the duke of Guise or one of his brothers. I hope to discover something further, as it is necessary to believe that the whole thing is well founded, as it has come from the lips of the archbishop of Canterbury, one of the four persons deputed, that the Jesuit was right in saying that the matter was of high importance, because it really is, although as things have turned out and owing to the changes in France the time has passed for carrying it into execution; but His Majesty ought to know of it. The Jesuit proposes to remain on in England without changing his religion, receiving nothing from the king but the means to live. He justifies his action*

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\* The Corona Regia of Puteanus.

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by saying that he was simply moved by indignation to reveal this treason.

All these occurrences and seeds of discord may, in the present state of affairs, prove of considerable advantage to the service of Italy, because the more the king realises that the friendship of Spain is feigned and very prejudicial to him the more he will recognise that it behoves him to attend to the interests and the preservation of those princes who love him and desire his welfare with a whole heart.

London, the 11th August, 1617.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Aug. 11.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.

Dispaoci dagli  
Ambasciatori  
in Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**864.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the COUNCIL OF TEN.

*This morning I visited the Secretary Winwood. After discussing other matters he said he wished to put a question of great importance to me both to the service of His Majesty and that of the republic with regard to the Ambassador Wotton, concerning whom accounts of the worst nature reach his ears daily and which if known to His Majesty would cause him the greatest sorrow. That these reports related to his bad faith (poco fedeltà), that he knows Wotton to be the enemy of the duke of Savoy, because whereas on former occasions he was very well treated by him on his passage, he did not on the contrary receive so much honour on this last occasion, so that he bears him ill-will. That he knows him to have a close understanding with the grand duke of Florence, and that he has received money from him since his residence in Venice. That this last time when he got to Venice he remained more than a month before presenting himself to his Serenity, and subsequently not only acted coldly where he could, but moreover made mischief when in his power, especially in the disputes between the Count John Ernest, of Nassau, and Don Giovanni de' Medici, wherefore he wished to hear the truth of this from me.*

*I confess, most excellent lords, to having felt very much embarrassed at the moment, for to apologize for Sir Henry Wotton or to praise him, acquainted as I am with his nature, would have been against my conscience, and detrimental to the interests of the state, and I should, moreover, have saddled the republic with everlasting ill. (Confesso Signori Eccemi che all' hora mi ritrovai molto confuso, perche escusar et laudar il Sig. Wuton per la cognitione che tengo della sua natura facevo contra la mia coscienza, pregiudicaro all' interesse publico et confirmaro in perpetuo male sopra la Serma Rep<sup>ca</sup>) On the other hand, I did not deem it fitting to speak without orders on such*

\* The Jesuit that came from Milan is sent away without the king seeing him. who gave order that the lord archbishop and Mr. Secretary Winwood should hear what he could say. They dealt with him by all manner of good means, and drew from him, as he protested, the utmost of his knowledge, which was not worth the whistling, being certain strange chimeras and far fetcht imaginations of plots and dangers not worth the knowing, much less the relating. Whereupon it was thought good to despatch him away, the rather for that he grew scandalously debauched. He had a hundred pounds in gold delivered to him, which the searchers at the seaside took from him a thing that should not have been done; but now there is no remedy, neither do they know how or whether to send it after him. And here is the end of that play to the small honour of the author. Chamberlain to Carleton. 11 Oct., 1617. o.s. Birch: *Court and Times of James I.*, ii. p. 37.

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a subject, and so I determined to steer a middle course, answering the secretary that I considered Sir Henry Wotton a gentleman of honour and knew nothing of him from his Serenity, though I could indeed tell him that these same reports had found their way even to my ears, and that I regretted them, because such ministers ought to be free not only from fault but even from suspicion. That an English ambassador in Venice has it in his power at all times, and now especially, to be of great use by the demonstration of good-will and kindly offices, since as the mouthpiece of his king, he has the means of making himself heard; and that it certainly appeared to me that Sir Henry Wotton kept very much aloof, though I was unable to assign any reason for this, as I knew of none. The secretary repeated to me that he regretted the reports in circulation and said he must acquaint the king with them.

Concerning this matter I find myself in duty bound to tell your Excellencies that Sir Henry Wotton is in very small repute at this court and with the king. He has no friends, is poor with nothing in the world besides an annuity of 800 crowns for life, which he receives from His Majesty. He went back to Venice for the sole purpose of gaining a livelihood, as his debts forbade his remaining any longer here. He is of a most avaricious disposition, so that for money he would do anything, and it is reported that he was bought by the Spaniards at the treaty of Wesel, when he went there as ambassador, for suspicions to this effect were very manifest, and the Lords States remonstrated thereon. (*Mi trovo obligato di dire all' Ecc Vre a questo proposito esser il Car. Vuton in questa Corte et appresso il Re in pochissima consideratione senza amici, potero, senza altro al mondo che 800 scudi di provisione che il Re li da in vita; ritornato a Venezia con solo fine di guadagnar per vivere poiche qui per i debiti non poteva più dimorare; di animo avarissimo, che per denari farebbe ogni cosa; et è fama che fosse guadagnato da Spagnoli al trattato di Vessel, che fu iri Amb. di che furono i sospetti assai manifesti et i Sig. Stati se ne dichiarirno.*)

When on the eve of leaving London for Venice he was on terms of the closest friendship with the Spanish ambassador here, and I know even then that he went privily to his dwelling and remained there four or five hours at a time. Thus, having left Venice, disgusted with the State in the first place owing to what occurred at the close of his mission, about the book, and secondly because he did not receive a donative extraordinary, which he complained openly to me about,<sup>a</sup> added to which, having subsequently gone to Turin, drawn thither again solely by the desire of making money, and being already, according to general report, in the pay of the Spaniards, it would be no wonder were the rumours in circulation true, and possibly something more the discovery of which, as it would prove easier at Venice than here, I have no doubt that should your Excellencies make enquiry

<sup>a</sup> The book referred to is James's "Premunition to all most Mighty Monarchs, Kings, Free Princes and States of Christendom," published in 1609. Vol. XI of this Calendar contains many particulars of Wotton's troubles in connection with this work; see the Preface, pp. xxiii-xxviii.

Wotton felt much aggrieved because when he left Venice in 1610 he did not receive such honours as were accorded to M. de Fresne, the French ambassador. He expressed his resentment to Correr and Foscarini in London, and to Barbarigo at Turin as well as to Lionello, speaking excitedly on the topic. See Vol. XII. of this Calendar, pp. 109, 146, 274.

1617.

*you will ascertain something in which case, should you deem it for your service, it would be easy to find the means of freeing the State from such serious detriment.*

*Lord Wotton, the brother of Sir Henry, has a seat in the Privy Council. He is an avowed Spaniard and our bitter enemy, allowing no opportunity for injuring us to escape him, so no heed need be taken for his enmity as we have the fullest possible measure of that already.*

*The merchant Burlamacchi who remits money to Sir Henry Wotton and is his creditor, has lately declined to supply him any longer to avoid further engagements, and the said ambassador has laid hands on the 600 crowns which your Excellencies caused to be paid to Parris on account of Sir William Smith, who has hitherto been unable to obtain them, all which may serve to show the shifts to which the ambassador is driven for pecuniary supply and how much reason there is to watch his hands. Should my reply to the secretary not satisfy your Excellencies, I beseech you to pardon my zeal for the State's service.\**

With regard to the letters of your Excellencies dated the 30th and the 14 July, I fancy it behoves me merely to acknowledge their receipt. I need only add that the countess of Bedford, having come to London, declined hearing anything about this mis-demeanour, so I have nothing more to hope concerning the examinations on behalf of the Sig. Muscornò.

From London, the 11 August, 1617.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Aug. 12.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savona.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**865.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

His Highness sent for me this morning to meet MM. Marescial and Bethune to discuss the terms to propose to Don Pedro. As I was feverish His Highness postponed the meeting until to-morrow, but he told me what they had decided upon. To obtain Vercelli before disarmament, they offer that there shall be a mutual restitution of all places, His Highness to begin. The places occupied after the treaty to be placed in the hands of a third party. His Highness told me afterwards that if peace is not concluded this time, it will be necessary for your Excellencies to make up your minds to a written alliance with the States, the Princes of Germany, himself and the king of England, and if this is not done the troubles will continue and incessant war to resist the pretensions of the Spaniards.

Asti, the 12th August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 14.  
Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni,  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**866.** The AMBASSADOR of ENGLAND came into the CABINET and said :

I have informed my king, as you desired, of the articles agreed upon with Spain, by the ambassador Gritti and other ambassadors,

\* The decipher may be found in Senato, Secreta, Comunicazioni dal. Cons. de' X. Vol. VIII.

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with the participation of the minister of my king. The peace is to be made universal by the laying down of arms both in Piedmont and in Friuli. What has been irregularly taken at sea, as we may call the reprisals upon merchant galleys while the republic was friendly with the Catholic king, shall also be restored. That your Serenity accepts the articles upon the Uscocchi with due reserves, and that with regard to Savoy the king of Spain will abide by the treaty of Asti. I also informed His Majesty that I had communicated my instructions to your Excellencies *ad litteram*, and his disposition had caused great content and gratitude. So open a declaration of friendship from my king leads me to express my feelings more freely. I find that all discussions upon Italy may be reduced to three propositions, two unquestionable and one doubtful. The two are that your Serenity will not make peace without Savoy, and that Savoy will not grant it without the restoration of Vercelli; the doubt is whether Spain will restore it or no. I remember that some days ago I maintained here that they would not. But now I have drawn a balance, and rather lean to the affirmative. On the other side there is the natural tenacity of the race and the *terribilità* of the place, to use the new word, as a most important station, supported by the new fort of Sandoval, apt to receive succours from Milan and to bridle Savoy, holding thereby one of the keys of Piedmont into Savoy. There is also the formidable example of Siena and the question of prestige which may not suffer the immediate restitution of a place acquired with such losses after a long struggle. But there are very potent reasons on the other side, because they must decide to have one of two things, either to hold Vercelli and have a perpetual war in the midst of Italy, or to attempt the complete conquest of Piedmont and Savoy. He who possesses more risks more. The Catholic king holds much in this province, he cannot gain much by war and may arouse sleeping humours. As for taking Savoy and Piedmont, even if all Italy remained unmoved, France certainly would not permit it. Thus it is unlikely that the Catholic king will insist upon retaining that place. I will now submit an idea of my own which I have written to His Majesty's Resident at Turin, namely that the king of Spain should hand over Vercelli to Prince Vittorio as an act of munificence to his own nephew, not to the duke; I hope your Serenity will take in good part what little I can do for the general peace.

The ambassador proceeded to the case of two English merchants, sent to reside at Zante and Cephalonia, that they may be kindly treated, of one Count Erbat, prince of the Empire, made a slave by the Turks for letters of favour to the Bailo for his release, of a poor Irishman, condemned for blasphemy, for Captain Bel, either to serve in war or to take the news of peace to the king of Great Britain, and finally of a Grison who offers to raise troops and bring them through the pass and who does not ask for money before he brings them.

The doge answered that every satisfaction should be given to the ambassador in each of these cases, and after further courteous words the ambassador departed.

[*Italian.*]

1617.

Aug. 16.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Milano.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**867. ANTONIO MARIA VINCENTI, Venetian Secretary at Milan, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The Rector of the College of Jesuits here is called Father Filippo Rinaldi, a Florentine; he is here and neither he nor any other of that church of Brera has left Milan. The other church of the same order, San Fedele, not having a college, does not possess a rector but only a provost. His name is Father Thomaso Ceronio, a Genovese. He left Milan some days ago and has not yet returned. There is a strong opinion that he was intending to change his religion, and he may be called a fugitive. At Lucerne he was seen to be on the way to Basel, and they thought that he might be going to England. This action of his has been kept as secret as possible by the fathers of that monastery, and to save the reputation of their company they first spread a report that he had become a Carthusian, and now they say that he has gone to Flanders by the order of their General, upon important affairs, although so far as can be ascertained his departure was taken for the reasons given above. Meanwhile his duties are performed by the Vice Provost, the Father Alessandro Gerardini. This is as much as I have been able to gather by proceeding with caution. The task has proved difficult because the fathers are very reserved upon all matters concerning their monastery and are under a strict oath of secrecy, especially upon affairs of this nature. I have used my own methods, which are not liable to suspicion, and as a consequence I have not yet been able to entirely fulfil the commands of your Excellencies in this matter.

Milan, the 16th August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 17.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Spagna,  
Venetian  
Archives.

**868. PIERO GRITTI, Venetian Ambassador in Spain, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

The Secretary of England was pleased with the office which I performed with him by order of your Excellencies. He said that when he spoke to the ministers here they had not been able to hide their satisfaction about the affair of the galleys, but told him it was a great piece of luck. *Don Baldassar di Zunica at once sent the news on its arrival.*

Madrid, the 17th August, 1617.

[*Italian; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Aug. 18.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**869.** On the approaching return of the king of England from Scotland it is fitting that an ambassador of ours should be present at that Court in fulfilment of our promise and in the interests of our service in the present serious state of affairs and Sig. Lunardo Moro being already selected for the embassy of Savoy, whence the Ambassador Donato should proceed to England:

That the said Sig. Lunardo Moro shall leave this city within eight days and proceed immediately to the embassy of Savoy upon pain of 1,000 ducats to be levied by the Avogadori di Commun and the Savii of our Cabinet. That 2,000 ducats be given to him as a

1617.

donation beyond the usual assignment, so that he may the better execute this resolution. That the Ambassador Donato proceed to England without delay upon his arrival. That as the Ambassador Moro will have to follow the duke to the field, he shall have an assignment of 400 crowns a month such as the Ambassador Donato now enjoys.

Ballot without the two heads of donation and salary.

Ayes 114.

Noes 11.

Neutral 26.

In the Cabinet, ballot upon the donation and salary.

Ayes 9.

Second ballot, Ayes 10.

Noes 5.

Noes 3.  $\frac{1}{2}$ ths.

Neutral 3.

Neutral 4.

pending.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 18.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

870. To the AMBASSADOR at the IMPERIAL COURT.

The royal galleys have gone from Brindisi towards Messina to join the reinforcements and watch the Turkish fleet. Some ships have remained at Brindisi. Our fleet is in Dalmatia, awaiting the movement of the Spaniards and guarding the Gulf.

In Friuli on the 10th the enemy attacked some of our posts, but were repulsed and pursued a good way, leaving 300 dead and wounded. A Dutchman distinguished himself, killing ten of the enemy single handed. This has greatly encouraged our forces and stopped the further progress of the enemy.

We learn in letters of the 15th that the archducal forces attempted to surprise S. Floriano, but failed. Some of our companies have been raiding, and sacked five or six places, the chief one being Castagnovizza, carrying off some useful booty.

The like to the following :

London.

Spain.

Milan.

The Hague.

Turin.

Naples.

Rome.

Zurich.

Florence.

France.

Scaramelli.

Mantua.

Ayes 120.

Noes 0.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

[Aug. 19.]

Collegio,  
Lettere.  
Venetian  
Archives.

871. To the PROVEDITORE OF ZANTE.

Notification of the sending of provisions by an English ship, master John Humphrey (*Omfre*), in charge of Dimitri Rucani, in accordance with the deliberation of the Senate of the 19th inst.

[Aug.].

The like, *mutatis mutandis*, to Cephalonia.

[*Italian.*]

1617.

Enclosure.

**872.** Georgio Gaurilopulo and Dimitri Ruccani have offered to go to the assistance of Zante in its distress. That the Prov. alle Biave be directed to lade in an appointed ship 80 thousand of rice, 50 of biscuit and 300 stare of beans, to be taken by the one appointed by the Cabinet.

Ayes 117.

Noes 5.

Neutrals 3.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosure.

**873.** Dimitri Ruccani represents the wretched state of his native island of Zante, owing to the plague and the consequent lack of trade; he offers to take biscuits, rice and beans thither in an English ship, which is ready and safe.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosure.

**874.** Memorandum of what is to be sent to Zante.

Biscuit, 80 miera.

Rice, 30 miera.

Beans, 700 stara.

To be laden upon a small English berton or ship, master John Moier.

The cost of these goods may be deducted from the new custom on raisins, which the aforesaid master may lade or others for him either in Zante or Cephalonia. If the raisins be laded at Cephalonia orders may be given that the hire be debited to the fiscal chamber of Zante.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosure.

**875.** Representation of Zuane Gaurilopulo of the wretched condition of Zante, devastated by the plague, which has destroyed its trade, by which it lives and by the provision of foreign food stuffs; suggests that provision of rice, biscuits and beans be sent thither.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 21.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**876.** LUNARDO MORO to the DOGE and SENATE.

A few days ago your Serenity sent for me, saying that it was necessary to provide as soon as possible for the embassy in England, and that I should declare what I could do with regard to going to Savoy to release the Ambassador Donato, so that he might proceed to this post. I represented the difficulties which stood in the way of this appointment despite my zeal to serve the republic. The principal object of my going was to allow the Ambassador Donato to proceed to England, but it is now quite clear that he cannot arrive there at the time that your Excellencies have promised the king. Your Serenity replied with customary graciousness, but I still wish to represent the great objections to my selection.

From my house, the 21st August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]



1617.  
Aug. 21.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**877.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

News has been brought to Naples by an English ship that Ossuna's fleet has withdrawn, and the great ships are coming to the coast of Nice while the Marquis of Santa Croce will bring the squadron of Spain to attack His Highness.

Asti, the 21st August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 22.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispaoci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**878.** ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I hear that they are at work upon drawing up articles for a league, to be sent post to England. They will send Gabaleone for this and possibly they will give the articles to me also. His Highness wishes to make sure of his friends and draw closer to them so that he may not succumb to the malice of the Spaniards, but this is not the time for such negotiations and they will completely destroy all attempts to arrange a peace.

Asti, the 22nd August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 22.  
Senato,  
Secreta,  
Dispaoci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**879.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Secretary at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

It is reported that the English captain who commanded the brigantines and fustarelle of His Excellency, after having taken a quantity of booty and captured quite recently a marciliana of oil, would have made them unload upon a Ragusan ship, which happened to be in the roadstead of Pescara, and put therein all the booty and arms which were in the brigantines, if it had not escaped with many, it is not known whither. It is also reported that Anastasio dal Zante, who was pilot of Sig. Pellegrini di Rossi, has escaped with one of those brigantines, they say in the direction of Corfu. His Excellency is much upset by these misfortunes, although he pretends to care nothing about them.

Naples, the 22nd August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 22.  
Collegio,  
Lettere.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**880.** To the RECTORS OF ZANTE.

The English merchants Richard Beresford and John Gueild have been appointed by the Levantine company of that nation to reside in this island to look after the trade of the said company. The ambassador of their king, resident here, has warmly recommended them; and in dealing with so friendly a nation and with the subjects of a king with whom we enjoy such intimate relations, we direct you to protect and favour them, and cause others to do the like, so that the Company may the more readily send its goods to our states and that friendship and trade may be encouraged as we desire.

The like to the Rectors of Cephalonia.

Ayes 18.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

1617.

Aug. 22.  
Collegio,  
Lettere.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**861. To the BAILEO at Constantinople.**

The English ambassador has notified us that Sig. George Albert, count of Erbach, prince of the Empire, has been taken by the Turks with twelve other German gentlemen, between Malta and Naples, some months ago, when he went to see that province. The ambassador showed that his king was very anxious for the count's release, because of his rank and birth, and begs for the use of our influence at the Porte. We report this request because by joining offices with the ambassador of that king we can show our desire to join with him everywhere, and upon all occasions to give him satisfaction, and especially in so proper a cause.

Ayes 18.

Noes 1.

Neutral 2.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 24.  
Collegio,  
Lettere.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**882. To PRINCE MAURICE.**

Letters of credence of Pietro Contarini, knight, who is being sent as ambassador extraordinary to the king of Great Britain.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 24.  
Senato,  
Terra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**883. To the KING OF GREAT BRITAIN.**

Letters of credence for Pietro Contarini, knight, chosen to act as ambassador extraordinary until the arrival of the ambassador Donato.

Ayes 47.

Second ballot, Ayes 40.

Noes 20.

Noes 15.

Neutral 92.

Neutral 107.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 24.  
Senato,  
Terra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**884. To the QUEEN OF GREAT BRITAIN.**

Letters of credence for Pietro Contarini.

Ayes 47.

Second ballot, Ayes 40.

Noes 20.

Noes 15.

Neutral 92.

Neutral 107.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 24.  
Collegio,  
Lettere.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**885. To the LORDS of the three LEAGUES of the GRISONS.**

Letters of credence for Pietro Contarini, knight, who is being sent as ambassador extraordinary to the king of Great Britain.

The like to the following :

Zurich.

The senate of Nürenberg.

The archbishop of Cologne.

The landgrave of Hesse.

The archbishop of Mayence.

The margrave of Baden.

The archbishop of Treves.

The count Palatine.

The prince of Anhalt.

The countess Palatine.

The margrave of Anspach.

Strasburg.

The duke of Wirtemberg.

The States General of Flanders.

The senate of Basel.

[*Italian.*]

1617.

Aug. 24.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**886.** When the Secretary Lionello was sent to Scotland upon the present troubles we informed His Majesty that on his return to England he should find an ambassador at Court to act in our name. We also confirmed the same to His Majesty's ambassador here in response to his offices in the Cabinet. As it is not possible for the Ambassador Donato to be there at the end of next month, when we understand that the king will have returned, the present exigencies require that some one be sent immediately, as well as the favour that His Majesty may show to the republic by a declaration, and our aforesaid promise :

Resolved that Ottaviano Bon proceed without delay from France to England to remain there until the arrival of our Ambassador Donato, and that he shall continue to enjoy the salary which he is now receiving until his return to this city.

|             |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| Ayes 47.    | Second ballot, Ayes 40. |
| Noes 20.    | Noes 15.                |
| Neutral 92. | Neutral 107.            |

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 24.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**887.** To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.

In fulfilment of our promise to His Majesty that he should find an ambassador of ours at Court on his return from Scotland, we have decided to direct Ottaviano Bon to proceed immediately to reside with His Majesty as ambassador extraordinary until the arrival of the Ambassador Donato. When he arrives you will give him full information of the commissions which we gave you when you were sent to the king in Scotland, and the replies you received from His Majesty with whatever else concerns the public service, so that he may be able to perform his duties with the greatest possible advantage, just as you have served, to our entire satisfaction. We will write to the ambassador Bon about your return home, that he permit you to leave after he has obtained from you all the information that he thinks necessary, and to assign you 300 ducats for the journey.

|             |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| Ayes 47.    | Second ballot, Ayes 40. |
| Noes 20.    | Noes 15.                |
| Neutral 92. | Neutral 107.            |

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 25.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**888.** This Council well knows how necessary it is that an ambassador should be present at the court of England on His Majesty's return from Scotland, out of regard to the promise made to His Majesty by the Secretary Lionello and to His Majesty's ambassador resident here, and for other important reasons connected with our service, the Ambassador Donato, who is destined thither, being unable to arrive in time.

Resolved that a noble be elected as extraordinary ambassador in England to stay there until the arrival of the Ambassador Donato. He may be taken from any place, convent, college, rule and office,

1617.

and may not refuse upon the penalty provided for such cases; he should be obliged to leave within eight days upon the penalty of paying 1,000 ducats, to be taken from him by the Avogadori di Commun and by each of our Cabinet under oath. He shall receive 1,000 ducats as a donation to put himself in train, and 500 gold ducats a month for his expenses for which he shall not be bound to render account. For horses, trappings and chests, 900 ducats of lire 6, grossi 4, for which likewise he shall not be bound to render account. For extraordinary expenses 300 ducats, for which he shall render account on his return. For the secretary 100 ducats as a gift and to two couriers who accompany him, 40 ducats each.

That the secretary Lionello in England and His Majesty's ambassador resident here be informed of this decision.

Ayes 147.

Noes 0.

Neutrals 12.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 25.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

889. To the SECRETARY LIONELLO in ENGLAND.

In fulfilment of our obligation to provide an ambassador of the republic at the court on His Majesty's return from Scotland, and in the interests of our service, we have to-day chosen Piero Contarini, knight, to reside as extraordinary ambassador with His Majesty until the arrival of the Ambassador Donato, with express instructions to leave here within eight days, so that we hope he will arrive in time for His Majesty's return to London. We direct you to inform His Majesty of this our resolution, to which we have been led by a desire to show our constant esteem and affection for that most glorious crown. You will see that the news reaches the Court by such way as you think best.

*Vigore deliberationis ex<sup>mi</sup> Senatus dici XXV. Augusti, 1617.*

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 24.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

890. To the AMBASSADORS in FRANCE.

While the affair of the Grisons remains in suspense, for which you, Bon, were chiefly sent to the Court, and as the English court has remained for a long while without an ambassador, we have resolved that you shall take leave of His Most Christian Majesty without any delay, and proceed to London, hastening your journey so that if possible you may be there on the king's arrival from Scotland, which, we understand, will take place about the 26th or 27th of next month, in accordance with the promise made by our Secretary Lionello and given to the ambassador resident here.

We send you enclosed letters of credence for the king, queen and prince of Wales; when introduced to their Majesties you will protest our constant esteem and our wishes for every prosperity and greatness for that crown, and that we trust in him in everything that concerns the common service. You will state that these motives have led us to send you to stay until the arrival of the Ambassador Donato, who is delayed by important affairs in Savoy.

1617.

You will get the Secretary Lionello to give you all the instructions for his mission to Scotland and the replies given to him, guiding yourself by them in pressing for a royal declaration in our favour and for action corresponding to our devotion to His Majesty's good pleasure, cultivating the good understanding with him and obtaining what is possible from him.

We recognize the inconvenience of laying this fresh charge on your years, but our appreciation of your worth and ability leads us to make use of them at this important crisis, while we feel confident that you will embrace the task. You will make use of the Secretary Lionello as much as you think necessary, and you may allow him to return home, providing with money up to 300 ducats for his journey.

You, Gussoni, will continue in the embassy in accordance with the instructions given to you both.

|         |     |                |         |      |
|---------|-----|----------------|---------|------|
| Ayes    | 47. | Second ballot, | Ayes    | 40.  |
| Noes    | 20. |                | Noes    | 15.  |
| Neutral | 92. |                | Neutral | 107. |

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 26.  
Collegio,  
Secreta.  
Esposizioni  
Principi.  
Venetian  
Archives.

891. M. Antonio di Franceschi reports that he went yesterday to the ambassador of England and informed him that the republic had appointed Sig. Pietro Contarini, as extraordinary ambassador to his king, and act until Sig. Donato, ambassador to Savoy, shall be able to relieve him. He replied with thanks, saying that he knew Sig. Pietro who had been ambassador in France and was experienced in the affairs of the states neighbour to those of His Majesty. He said that he would at once inform his king, who would be much gratified.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 25.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

892. GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Three days ago I received your Serenity's letters of the 7th August with the exposition of the ambassador Wotton and the reply given to him by the Senate. I ascertained that no letters had come from Wotton by the same courier and this caused me much satisfaction, because my office with His Majesty of communicating information will prove the more acceptable, and he will recognize that it originates in the affection and confidence of your Excellencies towards him, and has not been provoked by Wotton. I saw Winwood this morning and communicated to him the three parts of the reply which your Excellencies commit to me, the negotiations for peace, the coming of the ambassador and thanking His Majesty for what he graciously said to me at the audience at Edinburgh. I related the whole so that he might be well impressed and be able to send an express courier to the king this evening. His Majesty will reach England in eight days and will proceed gradually towards these parts, and that is why, in the interests of the public service, I should wish that the ambassador was at hand whom your Excellencies have destined for this court.

1617.

In reply to my offices Winwood told me that he knew that peace would be very beneficial to Italy as circumstances certainly are not favourable for the continuation of the war, but he feared lest the princes interested should allow themselves to be again deceived by the Spaniards, for the more profuse they are with their promises the less they ought to be trusted. In this connection he heard recently from France that the marquis of Lanz is publishing the same idea at that Court and that the Spaniards have simply entered upon these new negotiations for the purpose of reinforcing their shrunken army and to repair the walls and fortifications of Vercelli which had suffered so much. However he praised the most serene republic for hearkening to the proposals; they were right to do so especially as they had been brought by the French ambassador, but he did not think that too much reliance should be placed upon them, and they should desist from opportunist decisions and resolutions, because this added to the other losses would prove harmful. That he would immediately send word of everything to the king, who will certainly be satisfied by the communication, and on his return to London some strong line will be taken. He feels very bitterly the loss of Vercelli and of the three galleys of the republic and the relief, which has entered Gradisca, events which have caused the same impression upon other well-affected ones and which on the other hand have greatly rejoiced the enemy, who found hopes for yet greater gains from this beginning.

The fact that in spite of the reports about the marriage in negotiation with the son of the king of Bohemia the king sent the last dispatch to Digby to go to Spain, so that he will be at sea at this moment, strengthens the belief that His Majesty proposes to use this mission to obtain money from the parliament, as related in my last dispatch.

Lord Roos, who six months ago was ambassador extraordinary in Spain, has left England secretly, almost with the appearance of flight, taking with him a servant and a Spaniard whom he had in his house. It is not known whither he is going or what his motives may be. All are surprised, indeed the more so because at present he enjoys an income of 20,000 crowns and certainly expects more than 100,000 crowns in addition on the death of his father and grandfather.\*

All the magnates are in the country and all negotiations are suspended until the approaching return of the king, and so I can

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\* 'The Lord Roos, pretending a journey into Yorkshire in good equipage, with sixteen or twenty men, and being on his way as far as Huntingdon and Stilton, there left them till his return from London, whither he feigned to be called back upon some urgent occasion. But there hath been no news of him till Thursday last, that an unknown French foot-post brought Mr. Secretary a letter from him, without date of time or place, wherein he complains that the diabolical dealings of the Lady Lake have driven him to absent himself, excusing himself towards him very much for not acquainting him with it; but within twenty-five days he should hear further from him the reasons of his departure.

... This is all we hear of him, yet saying that the fellow said he left him at Calais, and had charge to deliver the letter to his own hands.' Chamberlain to Carlton, Aug. 4, 1617. Birch: *Court and Times of James I.*, ii, pp. 25, 26. He actually went to Rome as a convert with letters of introduction from Gondomar. Gardiner: *Hist. of England*, iii, pp. 189, 190. He was in the direct line of succession to the famous Lord Burghley. His grandfather, Thomas Cecil, earl of Exeter, died Feb., 1623, aged 80; his father, William Cecil, earl of Exeter, survived until 1640. Lord Roos died before either, in 1618. G.E.C. *Complete Peerage*.

1617.

assure your Excellencies that nothing is passing here worthy of your notice.

What else the *Jesuit revealed* I cannot at present discover, as the person who gave me the information is now out of London.

I have two letters of your Serenity of the 21st July and two of the 28th with news of events. I see nothing to do but to acknowledge their receipt and use them when I have an opportunity.

London, the 25th August, 1617.

[*Italian ; the part in italics deciphered.*]

Aug. 25.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Inghilterra.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**893.** GIOVANNI BATTISTA LIONELLO, Venetian Secretary in England, to the DOGE and SENATE.

Encloses account for couriers and the carriage of ordinary and extraordinary letters.

London, the 25th August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

[The account is wanting.]

Aug. 26.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Comunica-  
zioni dal  
Cons. de' X.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**894.** The Pope is much perturbed because on Thursday morning Pasquino was found with both ears full. Strict enquiry has been made without any results. The pasquinade speaks very bitterly of the Government of the present pope.

Although the pope was very angry with the last ambassador, yet he has been somewhat mollified by his refusal to go as extraordinary ambassador to England. He knows the ability of the man by long experience, and feared lest he should bring off some great coup with the king of England to the detriment of the Spaniards ; but what concerned him more was that if this gentleman left Rome now, fully informed about the Court, he would take it ill that he should go to England, where he might give the king precise information of what is now being done, and for the same reason, if any of the Roman Barons is going travelling through the world, he immediately forbids him to go to England, and particularly to the capital (*conosce l'valore del personaggio per longa esperienza et temeva che non facesse qualche gran colpo, presso quel 141 a danni di 66 ma quel che più a lui importa si è che partito questo Sig. hora da 115 informatissimo di tutta la corte sentiva male che andasse in 126 dove haverebbe potuto a puntino informare 64 di quanto qui al presente si tratta ; et per la istessa cagione, quando alcuno di questi Baroni Romani va per lo mondo a diporto, subito le proibisce l'andar in 126 et massime ad urbem Regiam*).<sup>o</sup>

Rome, the 20th August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 28.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Germania.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**895.** ZORZI GIUSTINIAN, Venetian Ambassador in Germany, to the DOGE and SENATE.

The emperor and Maximilian are awaiting the arrival of Ferdinand. The negotiations with Saxony have resulted satisfactorily, and he obtained what he wanted from the elector, that the

\* The following readings of the cipher are given on a flyleaf: 81 Ambr, 64 Inghilterra, 141 Re d'Inghilterra, 66 Spagnoli, 126 Inghilterra.

1617.

assembly for his nomination as king of the Romans should be held at Ratisbon in February.

Meanwhile they are suspicious about the journey of the Palatine, that he will oppose, and that from Sedan he will proceed to France and England for this purpose. There is a fear that he is negotiating with the elector of Bavaria, who belongs to his house, who could do a great deal for him with the help of the elector of Cologne, and France and England would help him in order to take the empire from the house of Austria, so that his plan is to protract matters, as if the emperor dies and the Palatine has the administration during the interval, he may direct affairs with great advantage. But the emperor will send an express person to him and to the elector of Brandenburg to inform them of the negotiations with Saxony and to treat for the aforesaid assembly.

Prague, the 28th August, 1617. *Copy.*

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 28.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Zante  
Venetian  
Archives.

**896.** ALMORO BARBARO, Proveditore of Zante, to the DOGE and SENATE.

I have not received any hint whether my frequent despatches have reached your Serenity. I was told to send word of the course of the plague here and its consequences, and I do not wish to be taxed with negligence. On the 25th I announced a considerable improvement, the fire which has raged for four months continuously and carried off about 2,000 persons seems almost entirely spent. I have begun to purge the city, so that it may be free as soon as possible. But it grieves me to see this town and island abandoned by the usual flow and traffic of foreigners and ships, as the trade has been entirely taken away, so that your Serenity has suffered as well as individuals. There are hardly any bids for the customs, and where one was let out for 1,000, now it fetches 500 at most. Ships have not come here for a long time, because they would not risk their goods upon uncertain hopes.

Zante, the 28th August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 29.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Signori Stati  
Venetian  
Archives.

**897.** CHRISTOFORO SURIAN, Venetian Secretary in the Netherlands, to the DOGE and SENATE.

A report is current here that count John Ernest has lost from 40 to 50,000 florins at play in the camp. More than one person has asked me about it, and I replied that I knew nothing. It is also asserted that the earl of Oxford had a large share of the gain. This was written to the English ambassador, but it is not believed that the loss can be so great.

The Hague, the 29th August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]



1617.

Aug. 29.  
Senato.  
Secreta.  
Disposci,  
Napoli.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**898.** GASPARO SPINELLI, Venetian Secretary at Naples, to the DOGE and SENATE.

A fleet is still kept near Genoa, the common idea being that they want to surprise Nice or Villafranca, but others suspect designs upon Genoa or attempts upon Toulon or Marseilles. Some again say that the galleons are to proceed to Spain, owing to their suspicions of English and Dutch ships which might arrive in those parts.

Naples, the 29th August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 30.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**899.** To the AMBASSADORS in FRANCE.

Notification that Piero Contarini has been chosen for the embassy in England and will leave shortly. The Ambassador Donato cannot proceed to England for awhile owing to indisposition and because he has no successor.

Ayes 140.

Noes 0.

Neutral 3.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 30.

Senato,  
Secreta.  
Deliberazioni.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**900.** To the AMBASSADOR with HIS HIGHNESS of SAVOY.

Progress of negotiations. Disposition of Spanish fleet. Assistance in money for Savoy. Notification that as the ministers of the king of Great Britain have everywhere declared that His Majesty would be pleased to see an ambassador on his return from Scotland, Piero Contarini has been chosen to act as extraordinary ambassador until Donato is able to go. Another ambassador will be chosen for Savoy or soon as possible.

Ayes 149.

Noes 0.

Neutral 0.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 30.

Cons. di' X.  
Parti  
Secreta.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**901.** That the letters of the Secretary in England of the 11th inst. upon the conversation of the Secretary Winwood with him about the ambassador Wotton, be communicated by a Secretary of this Council to the Savii of the Cabinet, and, if they think fit, to the Senate, after first enjoining the strictest secrecy, by taking oath upon the missals from each person, and that a copy of the letters be left.\*

Ayes 16.

Noes 0.

Neutral 3.

The oath of Secrecy was given to all who were in the Council.

The communication was made to the Cabinet on the 31st and a copy left in the hands of Giovanni Rizzardo, the Secretary.

[*Italian.*]

\* Also found in Senate, Secreta, Comunicazioni dal Cons. de' X. See page 574.

1617.  
 Aug. 30.  
 Senato.  
 Secreta.  
 Comunicazioni dal.  
 Cons. de' X.  
 Venetian  
 Archives.

902. Advices of Captain Jacques Pierre to Venice upon the designs projected at Naples by the duke of Ossuna with the marquis acting for the archduke, the English captain Robert Allyau and the Venetian Master Domenico, to seize Venice, with suggestions how to meet them.

They said it would be easy to attack the city with 2,000 picked musketeers led by picked captains and brought upon four galleons. These were to come ostensibly laden with wool and other things with the soldiers concealed beneath. They were to wait in the port of Malamocco until they could obtain barques to land 1,000 in the piazza of S. Marco and 1,000 at the Arsenal. They reckon on the assistance of two or three hundred men in this city. The duke of Ossuna was to keep twenty galleys ready to render necessary help. The plan to be executed in March or else in October or November. The nobility were to be informed that offices and dignities would be conferred upon them alone. The bells should be rung to summon all to come and take the oath of fealty to the king.

After discussing the above matters the duke sent for me to the palace, and asked me if I had not previously had some barques at Naples for the service of the Archduke Ferdinand. I said yes, and he asked for particulars. He took me in the Arsenal, and told the master there to give me all that I required to make similar light barques as secretly and as quickly as possible. On the following day the duke told me that he would only have four made, in order not to excite suspicion, as he proposed to send me and Captain Allyau with those barques to the country of the archduke, taking with us two chief masters with pitch and coarse calico to have as many as twenty made, and man them with Uscocchi. He obtained information about the channels from the Venetian Domenico and two other Venetians, who were in the galleys and whom he released. Domenico promised to pilot them safely to the piazza of S. Marco.

As soon as I heard all this I sent word to Sig. Gasparo Spinelli. He asked me what I wanted. I replied nothing at present except that the republic shall duly recognise my services. I also informed Sig. Simon Contarini, who told me that he had orders to send me to Venice as soon as possible. I stayed in Rome under the pretext of wishing to recover some money, but really to find out about a league of which a French Capuchin called Father Joseph of Paris and others had told me, between the pope, the emperor, the king of France, the king of Spain, the king of Poland and some princes of Germany, ostensibly against the Turk, but really against Venice, the Spaniards wishing to deceive France and the other princes.

The republic can easily frustrate these designs of Ossuna, by keeping four or five sentinel galleys in this port to prevent a surprise, and searching all galleys that come.

Jacques Pierre.

Venice, the 30th August, 1617.

[*Italian, 10pp., autograph signature.*]

1617.

Aug. 31.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Comunica-  
zioni dal  
Cons. de' X.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**903. In the COUNCIL OF TEN.**

That the anonymous letter from Rome of the 26th inst., sent to Sig. Comelio Celso in Venice, be communicated by a secretary of this Council to the Savii of the Cabinet, enjoining secrecy upon them, and to the Senate, if they think fit.

[*Italian.*]

Aug. 31.  
Senato,  
Secreta.  
Dispacci,  
Savoia.  
Venetian  
Archives.

**904. ANTONIO DONATO, Venetian Ambassador in Savoy, to the DOGE and SENATE.**

His Highness is urgently pressing for a reply from your Serenity to his demands. He said it was clear that the Spaniards would keep Vercelli and he could only recover it by the sword. If disarmament followed with Vercelli still in their hands he knew that he would lose all Piedmont. He therefore preferred to die sword in hand rather than let it fall from his grasp, and he was sure that his people would rather be poor under Savoy than fat under Spain. He was sure he would not be abandoned by the republic. He had the same confidence in the States and would receive some further help from the king of Great Britain and the princes of Germany, but your Excellencies were his chief support.

Asti, the 31st August, 1617.

[*Italian.*]

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## APPENDIX.

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1616.  
Jan. 22.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Busta 155.  
Venetian  
Archives.

### 905. The INQUISITORS OF STATE to GREGORIO BARBARIGO.

Your Excellency will recognise the importance of the affairs in which we ask for your co-operation. We wish you to obtain information upon many and various heads. You will impose a solemn oath of secrecy upon them and also upon the Secretary Lionello. We feel sure that you will carry out this work with prudence and zeal, without respect of persons. We ask you to obtain the fullest particulars possible upon the charges made against Antonio Foscari. As you will have to take information from divers persons, we must leave the means of procedure to your prudence. You will proceed with all due circumspection.

Venice, the 22nd January, 1615 [M.V.].

|                                                           |   |                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Marco Trevisan.<br>Francesco Correr.<br>Hieronimo Corner. | } | Inquisitors of State. |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|

*Postscript*: Whenever your Excellency cannot impose the oath of truth for various reasons, you will at all events impose that of secrecy.

[*Italian.*]

Enclosed in  
the preceding  
Despatch.

### 906. ARTICLES of ACCUSATION against ANTONIO FOSCARINI, with the names of the witnesses to be examined.

1. One morning a gentleman of the queen's chamber named Giovanni Maria Lugaro of Genoa came to dine with the ambassador Foscari, various persons being present. The ambassador asked Lugaro after the queen. He answered, She is well, thank God. Foscari continued, Who has commerce with her? Lugaro lowered his eyes and said, The king, I believe. Rubbish, said Foscari, let us speak the truth among ourselves, and he put an obscene question. Lugaro told him to keep a civil tongue in his head or he might find himself in an awkward situation.

Giovanni Maria Lugaro; Lunardo Michielini; Niccolo Dolfino.

2. In taking leave of the archbishop of Canterbury, Foscari flung himself on his knees before him and asked for his blessing before he left. When the archbishop refused, Foscari insisted several times. Finally the archbishop said that he could not do it because they were of different religions. Foscari replied, I renounce all the other religions in the world, yours is the true one.

Lunardo Michielini.

3. That Foscari sent his chaplain to be examined by the archbishop of Canterbury about two apostates. These had been converted and were under the archbishop's protection, but having

1616.

obtained pardon from Rome, possibly through the chaplain, they had fled. The archbishop complained to Foscarini about this, and the ambassador assembled his whole household and threatened them with force if they did not divulge the matter.

Lunardo also.

(4.) That an English religious came in holy week to assist in the offices. On Good Friday the Ambassador Foscarini engaged in a dispute with his chaplain and in the course of it Foscarini took the chaplain's hand forcibly and made it touch the back side of this priest, who is said to have been a Capuchin, and who was extremely scandalized.

Lunardo Michielini.

(5.) He made attempts upon the virtue of a spiritual daughter of this monk, sometimes attending the public comedies and standing among the people on the chance of seeing her.

Lunardo Michielini.

(6.) He had made similar attempts upon two ladies who came to mass, making them drunk.

Angelo degli Angeli.

(8.) Foscarini was dismayed at the king's indignation at his scheming against the life of Muscorno. He feared he would be ruined if the affair were known at Venice. He proposed to sell the plate, and take a ship to the Indies after murdering Muscorno. Michielini tried to dissuade him.

Lunardo Michielini, Niccolo Dolfino.

(9.) He had spoken in indecent and almost violent terms to induce the queen of France to grant him double the usual donation owing to his longer stay at that Court. The affair was referred to the Chancellor and Villeroi, and when they refused he spoke evil of them.

Lunardo Michielini.

(10.) There is a document upon what took place in 1614 in London, with regard to one William Lusmeden, a Scotchman, Foscarini's servant, who was imprisoned for plotting against Muscorno's life. The document is in English, signed by Sir [William] Smith, and dated 25th April, 1614. The knight states what he knows about the matter.

Lunardo also; Sir William Smith.

(13.) Scaramelli, while he was Foscarini's secretary, said that when the ambassador wrote to his Serenity he made it up out of his own head, and he seemed to be introducing characters in a comedy.

Lunardo also.

(14.) Foscarini's chaplain was asked at Easter by the physician Frier, the younger, to come and celebrate the sacrament in his house. The chaplain said that he might come to the ambassador's chapel. Sir [Thomas] Lake (*Lacon*) said 'God forbid, if we go we shall be accused by Foscarini to the archbishop, as has been done with others.'

Lake is a Catholic, whose house is next to Foscarini's.

Dr. Frier the younger.

1616.

(17.) Foscarini on returning from Scotland opened a packet of letters from the king, addressed to the Prince of York.

Antonio Padoan.

(18.) Foscarini used to say that he sent what stuff he pleased to those Pantaloons.\*

Pietro, a French servant of Sig. Muscorno.

(19.) When the strength of the republic was praised he likened it to a little drunken ape masquerading as a fierce lion.

Lunardo Michielini; Niccolo Dolfino.

(20.) Foscarini once when on a visit to the king said that he wished to go as Bailo to Constantinople to amass some 70 and 80,000 ducats and afterwards have two generalships.

Lunardo and Niccolo.

(21.) Foscarini had been heard to say that the king of England had the highest opinion of him, but a very poor one of the republic.

The same.

(28.) The one who supplied Foscarini with bread came with some of the king's guard to demonstrate at the ambassador's gates.

Dr. Frier the younger; Antonio the coachman.

(30.) Muscorno said that a poor man of Putney (*Potné*) whom he had introduced to supply Foscarini with beer, had had recourse to the king, because he could not get his money.

Sig. Fiorio, servant of the queen.

(32.) Foscarini had kept an English Protestant as porter, named Pietro, as a spy upon the Catholics.

Dr. Frier the younger; Hieronimo Solditz Vercellini.

(33.) Foscarini threw himself on his knees before the king at Greenwich when he went to take leave of the Palatine and the Princess.

Lunardo Michielini; Finet, Master of the Ceremonies.

(34.) He had given equivocal nicknames to the king, queen and palatine.

Lunardo.

(36.) That for a month he went to dig mushrooms and had walked alone through London.

Lunardo.

(38.) He despised the ambassadors and ministers of princes, cultivating their enmity; he had begun an intrigue with the wife of the ambassador of Flanders.

The ambassadors of Spain, Flanders and Holland; Lunardo Michielini; Niccolo Dolfino.

(39.) He had had indiscreet relations with the queen of England when he went to see her before his journey to Scotland.

Lunardo.

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\* Pantaloon, the Venetian character in Italian comedy, represented as a lean, foolish old man, wearing spectacles, pantaloons and slippers. The nickname is supposed to be derived from San Pantaleone, formerly a favourite saint of the Venetians. *Oxford English Dict.*

1616.

(40.) He never went to audience at the appointed time, but one or two hours late.

Lunardo and Niccolo.

(42.) When an agent of the king of Denmark was dining with him, Foscarini told him among other indecent expressions to eat and not to stand stuttering there. He had behaved with extraordinary rudeness to a tutor of Prince Charles, who was at table with him.

Agent of Denmark; Walter the tutor; Lunardo.

(44.) Foscarini had gone through the most crowded part of London in a carriage with eight or ten horses, and a buffoon at his side; he played a guitar and made him sing with a loud voice.

Lunardo.

(45.) Foscarini once when away hunting with the king, complained because Prince Henry would not hear him, owing to some impertinences. His Highness invited him to supper but would not allow him to sit with him, making him go to a public table.

Lunardo; Caratto, servant of Viscount Rochester.

(46.) Once on a visit to the queen he used disrespectful words about procreation.

Lunardo Michielini; Giovanni Francesco Biondi.

(47.) The letters written by his Serenity upon the occasion of the death of the prince were not presented to the queen and prince because Foscarini could not have audience of them.

Lunardo.

(48.) That Foscarini proposed to the king to go to Scotland to adore the place where His Most Divine Majesty was born, as others go to Christ's birthplace, and the king seemed well content.

Lunardo.

(49.) In important matters Foscarini trusted the decision to chance. He did this for the Scotch journey.

Lunardo.

(52.) Foscarini said at table that the Spanish ambassador had poisoned a Spanish lady and commissioned Michielini to go and spread this about the city.

Lunardo.

(53.) He had recourse to the archbishop of Canterbury to help to appease the king, who was enraged at the plot against Muscornio. He also went to him for advice and invited him to his house.

Lunardo; Odoardo, the interpreter; Antonio the coachman.

(54.) The king sent Mr. Morton to Foscarini to speak about this plot against Muscornio. He replied accusing Muscornio of the worst vices of treason, and of plotting with the Spanish ambassador against the king's life.

Sig. Albert Morton; Lunardo Michielini.

(55.) He asked pardon of the king in the case of Muscornio; he did so three times, but was not listened to.

Sir [Henry] Wotton told this to Muscornio.

Sir Henry Wotton; Sir Albert Morton.

1616.

(56.) He endeavoured by means of Lord Hay to obtain from the king an expression of satisfaction with his embassy ; but his lordship excused himself.

Lord Hay ; M. Mayerne, His Majesty's physician.

(57.) The king had said jestingly that the Venetian ambassador wished to make him believe that Muscorno was contriving a plot against his life with the Spanish ambassador.

Sir Albert Morton.

(58.) When asked by the Spanish ambassador to make representations in favour of some monks, he had done the opposite, advising His Majesty to extirpate them, as they are all rebels and plotters against his life. This is reported by Sig. Annibal Vacari, merchant in London.

Annibal Vacari.

(59.) The king asked the Spanish ambassador what was Foscarini's religion. He asked the same question of M. de Mayerne and Lord Wotton.

M. Mayerne ; Lord Wotton.

(60.) The Spanish ambassador said that he ought to visit the ambassador of Venice, but he wished first to know whether the slanders he uttered against the pope, the emperor, and his king were by order of Venice or his own caprice.

Odoardo the interpreter ; Lunardo Michielini ; Niccolo Dolfino.

(63.) Foscarini said he did not believe in the consecration of the host.

Lunardo.

(65.) He said the king was a swine-herd.

Angelo Nodari ; Niccolo Dolfino.

(68.) He used indecent and disrespectful language on his visit to the king of Denmark.

Lunardo and Niccolo.

(72.) He caused his household to live on a small quantity of wine and sold the licence which the king gave him to bring 30 tuns of wine. From this he made about 270 ducats a year.

Lunardo ; Dolfino ; Casella.

(73.) Annibal Vacari, merchant, heard it said at Court by persons of repute that the ambassador of Venice was acting for the duke of Savoy.

Annibal Vacari.

(78.) Foscarini kept the cipher and other public documents without any care, leaving them on the table or at the window for days together, where anyone might see them.

Lunardo and Niccolo.

(79.) In visiting the beautiful garden of the earl of Exeter (*Ester*) he said you princes have Paradise in this world, it will be good if you have it in the next. For my part I am contented with it here, as I do not know whether the other exists.

Lunardo.



1616.

(80.) He had behaved with the utmost indecency to two Catholic ladies of noble birth, one named Isabella Fosch.

Isabella Fosch; Lunardo; Angelo Nodari; . . . Bernardini an Italian merchant.

(81.) He had appropriated to himself the emoluments of his interpreter in England.

Lunardo; Master Guazzo.

(82.) The dispute with Muscorno and its causes.

M. Francisque de la Carré, a Frenchman.

[*Italian.*]

Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Busta 155.  
Venetian  
Archives.

907. ARTICLES of DEFENCE of ANTONIO FOSCARINI, extracts of articles for the interrogatories.

4. Frequented mass throughout stay in England. His church open to every one.

5. *Sir [William] Lake sent his wife and daughters to the church of Sig. Foscari. The knight himself went there sometimes [deciphered].*

6. *Sir [William] Lake and his wife at various times sent to Foscari's house their offices and other devotional things, to take care of them, when they were afraid that the house might be searched [deciphered].*

9. The two women who came to the mass and stayed to dinner were Protestants and loose women.

10. Muscorno published at court that they were Catholics and had been assaulted.

13. Foscari lived continently throughout the five years of his stay in England.

14. It was usual in England for ladies to come and dine with Foscari. They did the like in the time of his predecessor.

The liberty of the country permits this.

16. Owing to the ill-treatment of the Ambassador Gussoni by the duke of Savoy, Foscari forbade Michielini to go to the house of the ministers of Savoy.

17. During the whole period of the duke's ill behaviour Foscari would not receive visits from his ministers or visit them.

20. William Lumesden the Scotchman was a buffoon, a man of no intellect. His buffoneries served to entertain the whole household. Foscari called him 'Milor Dottor.'

22. Rinaldo Perondini on Easter morning followed Foscari in the garden and began to speak of an easy way of killing his enemy. Foscari said he had never entertained any such idea. That in an island like England they were all like prisoners. This Rinaldo had made false depositions at the instigation of Muscorno.

24. Muscorno visited the Scotchman in prison and gave instructions to give him food for which he would pay.

He then went to the recorder of London, the court and the king, publishing his slanders abroad.

32. On the Scotch journey Muscorno opened a packet and took out the letters from Venice, which he handed to the ambassador. He then tried to induce Michielini to swear that Foscari had opened it.

38. Foscari guarded public documents with all diligence.

1616.

42. At Belvoir\* Foscarini had a most favourable audience of Prince Henry. On the following morning His Highness had desired his company with that of Lennox and other great lords. He treated Foscarini with great kindness. He invited him to drink to the health of his lady (*di una sua dama*), directing his glass to be filled.

43. Of the friendship of Prince Henry for Foscarini and the favours which he granted him. Foscarini had frequently deplored with his chamberlain the great loss suffered by the republic and all of them by his death.

44. At the death of Prince Henry, Foscarini and his servants put on mourning. This was not done by any other ambassador.

55. When Foscarini was hunting with the king of England he dined twice with His Majesty, once at Abthorpe and the other at the palace of the earl of Exeter (*Hesiter*).† A large quantity of birds and other choice food was prepared for Foscarini, of which the king did not eat, and the king wished Foscarini to eat with him as a token of honour.

57. The prince was not present on any of the days when Foscarini dined with the king, when hunting.

58. The greater part of the time that Foscarini was in England he kept ten or eleven horses; eight being coach horses. He sold two while waiting for the Ambassador Barbarigo. He constantly kept a table for eight or ten gentlemen and had a numerous household. He frequently gave banquets to the principal lords of the Courts of the king and queen. At the time of the marriage of the princess he bought a special velvet livery, which no other ambassador did. All persons of quality were always welcome at his house.

74. The Secretary Muscornio introduced Ottavio Robbazzi into Foscarini's house as his servant.

77. *Foscarini granted permission to a Spanish woman, a Catholic,; to make a gateway by which she might enter his garden and attend mass whenever she pleased. There was always a friendship between Foscarini and the Spanish woman. Not a harsh word was uttered till the day of her death [deciphered].*

80. That when Foscarini came from the Spanish ambassador he ordered Odoardo the interpreter to go to the earl of Somerset, but first to learn from the archbishop of Canterbury whether they had decided in the Council to send some Catholic priests to a country place a long way from London, or if it was decided that they should not go. If it was decided that they should go, to do no more, because it would be useless, and if they were to remain they ought not to say anything as it would be superfluous. But if the affair was left undecided they ought to do something tactfully and beg the earl of Somerset to say something about it to the king.

81. That Foscarini during the negotiations to send certain imprisoned Catholic priests out of London to a distant province, did not go to audience of the king until many days after the priests had been sent. That the interpreter be asked if he was sent by Foscarini three or four days before those priests were sent out of London.

\* Foscarini's visit to Belvoir is recounted in Vol. XII. of this Calendar, pp. 409-411.

† Burleigh.

‡ Doubtless, from the particulars given below, this Spanish woman was no other than Donna Luisa de Carvajal. See Gardiner, *Hist. of Eng.* ii, pp. 221-223.

1616.

87. *Foscarini allowed Sir [William] Lake to make a gateway to come to his church.*

*He granted permission to the Spanish woman to make another.*

*He granted the same privilege to the ladies who afterwards went to the Spanish woman's house and to her brothers, until the day of his departure.*

*The privilege of entering and leaving secretly by this door was granted to his other neighbours and to whoever wished it.*

*Various persons were pleased to come and bring their children to receive the holy water of baptism, and subsequently they were entertained at the house and received other attentions for many days.*

*That upon one occasion the ordinance of baptism was observed, when Odoardo the interpreter and others were baptised, including some persons of quality and the daughter of the principal Master of the Ceremonies.*

*That every courtesy and charity were shown to the Catholics who came, especially at the time of the celebrations [deciphered].*

92. Foscarini only went three or four times to the play.

93. The ambassador of the archduke and his wife sometimes went to the play.

96. That Foscarini on his voyage to Scotland forgot the cipher at an inn.

97. Foscarini was very particular about appearing in good time at audience.

102. The licences granted by the king to bring wine from abroad without paying the custom are not used by any ambassador to bring it for themselves, but all use it and turn it to their profit as best they may.

104. Foscarini did not understand a word of English.

106. If Muscorno never did anything but make mischief, turning Foscarini's house upside down. If during the whole time of his stay in England he kept Foscarini in a constant state of disquiet.

126. If Muscorno began to make comedies of Foscarini in the Exchange, with lords and ladies, with the ministers of princes and finally at the court of their Majesties and the prince.

128. If Muscorno made friends with all the enemies of Foscarini, including one Pietro Arlensi, a knight of Malta, familiar in the chamber of the queen's chief chamberlain, and by such means endeavoured to influence the queen against Foscarini.

129. If a few days before Muscorno left London he was not in the gallery with the queen, playing and singing and making buffooneries against Foscarini; if the chamberlain left the gallery in disgust and if the queen showed signs of anger.

131. If Muscorno wrote a book entitled: *Detti e fatti di Antonio Foscarini*. If he went about talking of it and saying that it ought to be printed and such things.

133. If Muscorno sought every way to raise up the enemies against Foscarini by his lies.

134. If Muscorno was the cause that the Resident of the grand duke did not visit Foscarini.

138. If Muscorno did not frequently go to Protestant churches, and take part in the offices according to the Anglican rite with the Protestant ministers in the presence of all the people.

1616.

139. If Muscorno schemed with Sir Henry Cheney (*il Cavalier Cinhè*) to ask the king for the grant of a house and lands, because the said knight and the earl of Argyll promised him 600 crowns to have it.\*

152. If Muscorno was imprisoned for debt in London. If those who imprisoned him were persons of the Exchange. If Sir William Smith paid for him set him free.

158. Of the ill offices of Muscorno with Lord Hay and his wife; depriving the republic of the benefit of the services of that lord.

161. If Foscarini said that Muscorno, by means of M. de Mayerne, the king's physician, and his sister, procured presents and letters from the queen.

169. That Muscorno negotiated with the ministers of the king and the ministers of other princes without ever informing Foscarini or telling him anything about it.

1617.

### 908. EXTRACTS FROM EXAMINATIONS.

On April 18 in London. Odoardo Guatz, the interpreter, was examined. The knight Lake and his wife at various times sent their articles of devotion to Foscarini's house for safety.

Foscarini did not throw himself on his knees before the archbishop of Canterbury. Had never heard them speak of religion together at any of the numerous visits paid. The archbishop himself told him that Foscarini had never spoken to him upon religion.

78. The Spanish woman was imprisoned, he did not know why, and was released at the instance of the Spanish ambassador. She was at least two years with Foscarini before being imprisoned. The king was never ill-disposed towards her, and her imprisonment must have been due to some enemy. After her release she remained in the house of the Spanish ambassador until her death. Thinks she was imprisoned upon suspicion of keeping a monastery in her house.

Believes that all the ambassadors who have come to England have gone to the play more or less.

The Ambassador Giustinian went with the French ambassador and his wife to a play called 'Pericles,' which cost Giustinian more than 20 crowns. He also took the Secretary of Florence.

99. The king was only once kept waiting by Foscarini, and that was deponent's fault.

Had heard that Muscorno had been at St. Paul's Church and had sung there.

Lady Hay was set against the ambassador by Muscorno, this was because Lord and Lady Hay were too friendly with him.

April 23 in London. Examination of Lunardo Michellini.

The story about kneeling to the archbishop an invention of Muscorno. The secretary went to court and told all his friends that Foscarini spoke ill of them. He spoke thus to the sons of the treasurer, from whom these things passed to the ears of Somerset, Sir William Smith, whom he had made his enemy without any

\* See at pages 601, 602 below.

1617.

cause, Lord Burleigh, and that other knight<sup>o</sup> who went to Venice with Lord Dingwall.

The last day of April, in London. Examination of Federigo Federighi.

Muscorno had no money for his journey and asked Foscarini for some. The latter promised to let him have it at the current exchange. He did not obtain it, and said, Heaven help me from the Jew tricks of Foscarini. He afterwards obtained the money from Sir William Smith as a loan.

May 18 in London. Re-examination of Antonio Padoan, the coachman.

Once in Cheapside, when the ambassador was going to audience, the way was blocked by about 20 carts. The ambassador ordered me to drive on at the risk of breaking my neck. He was always very punctual at all audiences of the king, queen, and prince. He also went after the Court at Theobalds and elsewhere. Probably no ambassador in England made longer journeys after the king, who accordingly favoured him greatly. One year, when His Majesty was in progress, the ambassador was lodged near the king's rooms for two or three nights; and every day he went to the hunt in the king's coach. This was at Newark. At another time near the same place, the king gave him quarters at a palace called Burleigh, three miles off, and sent to fetch him for the hunt every morning, and sometimes to dine. One morning the king in person came to fetch him. The greatest favour shown was when the ambassador was going to Scotland, and the queen sent for him to come to her at Wells. Then it was that Muscorno began to speak ill of him.

1615.

Oct. 22.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Busta 155.  
Venetian  
Archives.

### 909. EXAMINATIONS for SIG. GIULIO MUSCORNIO.

Matthio Bonhomo, examined in the presence of the ambassador Barbarigo, said :

Had seen Muscorno twice singing in St. Paul's church in the company of the ministers. The church was full. It happened last year after Whitsuntide. Muscorno made copies of the public letters.

Nov. 1. A man named Josef said Muscorno had been once or twice to the house of the ambassador of Flanders to speak to some one.

Affidavit of Thomas Collins, citizen and notary of London, that he petitioned the king to obtain the first fruits and issues of Collingthorn and Hastings in co. Sussex for Henry lord of Cheney, now deceased, which petition he delivered into the hands of the Secretary of the Venetian ambassador, with whom he remained awaiting the arrival of the interpreter; after he came it was read and appeared conformable to the secretary's wishes and the agreement made between him and the earl of Argyll. He sent me two shillings for my labour. Dated at London on 20 September, 1615. [*Latin.*]

\* Skinner. See page 344 above.

1615.

Nov. 10. M. Francis de Verton, lord of la Forêt, a French gentleman, examined before the Ambassador Barbarigo.

Muscorno had agreed with the earl of Argyll to receive from him 150*l.* sterling for the fruits of the first year of the land of Collingthorpe and Hastings in Sussex, pertaining to the king by the death of Henry lord of Cheney. The earl promised him the 150*l.* if he should ask it of the king and obtain it and then renounce it in his favour. Muscorno got a notary to draw up the petition to present to the king. Deponent complained because he had been promised this and told Foscarini. Does not know if Muscorno presented the petition; he got nothing. Deponent obtained it as a gift from the king.

Dec. 8. Doctor John Freier, examined before the ambassador Barbarigo:

Had heard Muscorno read the book about Foscarini in the Dolphin Inn. The book was in Italian and written in a continuous narration. Had not read it. Muscorno read extracts. He would not read one part, because he said it touched matters of state.

Inquisitori di  
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**910. ARTICLES for INTERROGATION with respect to GIULIO MUSCORNIO.**

6. That Muscorno had a discussion with the earl of Argyll upon the interests of Sig. Niccolo Dolfino. The memorial sent to Muscorno by the earl was drawn up by the earl in the interests of Dolfino and did not name Muscorno. Dolfino went to the earl a few days later and thanked him.

12. That the Spanish ambassador visited Foscarini on Good Friday, 1614; and both visited the holy sepulchre together, in the house of the ambassador of Flanders, and a few days after they began to visit each other.

44. The names of Venetian merchants in London [*in margin, enquire of*] Vanderput, Malaparte Ricaut, the principal merchants in London.

58. If Muscorno was ever introduced to the king by Lord Wotton.

62. That Lady Hay was not a lady of the court, did not serve the queen and rarely visited her.

83. That Muscorno never had audience of the king introduced by the Earl of Somerset, except on St. Mark's day when the earl introduced him to kiss hands.

87, 88, 89. Muscorno never used indecent expressions about Foscarini; and never influenced the queen through Lady Hay against him.

90. When compelled by Viscount Fenton to take the first place at supper after Sig. Luca Tron, he protested that he only did so because he was forced.

104. In speaking to Madam Burle of Sig. Nicolo Dolfin he said every Venetian noble might call himself prince.

128. Ottavio Robazzi, Foscarini's servant, had married a Protestant and had several children.

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184. Luca Tron understood that Foscarini had presented a crown or a necklace to the queen, which to his great grief was restored after some weeks by Madam Gray.

Additional articles for Muscorno in his defence.

94. That Muscorno took exact information about aqueducts from the most skilled person in London, for bringing pure water to Venice. In this he was assisted by Sir William Smith, who acted as interpreter.

1617.

# 911. EXAMINATION of WITNESSES.

April 10. M. Giles Vandeput, a Flemish merchant, said that the only Venetian merchant he knew of in London was Federici. Milorini is a Ragusan and Gradi also.

May 22. M. Ricaut stated that there were no Venetian merchants in London and almost all the affairs of Venetians in this country are in the hands of Flemings.

May 28. Sir William Smith testified that Muscorno had taken information [about aqueducts] in the public interest. He was more popular than any other minister. Lord Wotton, the earl of Mar, Lord Hay (*Es*) and other Lords of the Council would say the same.

June 7. The Baroness Windsor said in conversation that she had never heard Muscorno use words disrespectful to Foscarini, though he had frequently defended his reputation.

June 19. The Countess of Arundel said in conversation that she had never heard Muscorno speak ill of Foscarini or of the republic.

[*Italian.*]

1616.

Feb. 22.  
Inquisitori di  
Stato.  
Busta 155.  
Venetian  
Archives.

# 912. EXAMINATIONS for ANTONIO FOSCARINI.

Angelo Nodaro of Padua was called and examined in the presence of the Ambassador Barbarigo.

He said Muscorno came to him one day laughing and saying 'The swine-herd, the swine-herd.' When he asked what he meant by this Muscorno said 'Don't you know, the Palatine is the swine-herd, that is what the ambassador calls him.' Foscarini used to give such names to every one.

He confirmed some details of the story of the two ladies mentioned in article 80. One was Mistress Fosch, the other was, he thought, a daughter of Sir [Lewis] Lewknor.

Odardo Guaz, interpreter of the Venetian ambassador, was examined as above. Foscarini had recourse to the Bishop (*sic*) of Canterbury for assistance upon the affair of plotting the death of Muscorno. Thinks he went to justify himself for having wished to kill the Secretary. He had no other friend among the Lords of the Council than the said bishop. He usually visited the bishop every two or three months, but upon this matter he went two or three times a week, and took no one with him but deponent. Foscarini went two or three times to the Temple to consult a lawyer who spoke Italian upon this matter. No lawyer had come

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to the house but Sig. Martini, sent by the king to interrogate the household.

With regard to the two ladies, one was Mistress Fosch, the other Dorothea Hastings. He did not recall the presence of the daughter of Sir [Lewis] Lewknor.

Lunardo Michelini was examined in the presence of the Ambassador Barbarigo. He denied the story about Foscari and the archbishop. Foscari had not been more than twice to see the archbishop without him.

Upon the matter of the apostates, the archbishop had sent to Foscari to complain that his chaplain meddled with outside affairs; this was upon the occasion of his converting the two apostates. Thereupon the ambassador directed the chaplain to go and give satisfaction to the bishop, advising him to speak respectfully. When the archbishop complained that these apostates had taken refuge in Foscari's house, the ambassador asked the priest and others if this were true. Lorenzo Perce said he did not know. Foscari cried out 'Rascal, tell me the truth or I will strangle you.'

Had never heard Scaramelli say that the ambassador made up his despatches out of his own head, but had heard it said that His Excellency did all his things at haphazard.

Asked about opening the king's letters to the duke of York he said that the ambassador on returning from Scotland met a person with a packet of letters for York addressed to a minister there called the resident. The ambassador and secretary, moved by curiosity to see if their letters were inside, opened the packet a little with their nails. Foscari found his letters, and took them out of the packet. The letters came from Venice for the ambassador. They had been sent by the major domo to York, but the people there, not knowing the ambassador, had sent them back to London. On hearing this the major domo had sent them in the said packet.

24 Feb. On the journey to Scotland, Foscari said he had spent a great deal in the public service. If he had been able to go to Constantinople he would have done so willingly, as even if he did not gain anything he would not lose. On the same journey he said that the king of England had a high opinion of the greatness of the republic and during the conversation he said that he thought His Majesty had a good opinion of him. The ambassador had to dismiss his Catholic porter named Swan. He was obliged to take in his place a Protestant named Peter. This man one day uttered some words against the king at an inn, which seemed to show that he had knowledge that the king was to be assassinated. When the man returned Foscari had him imprisoned. When the secretary of the Council came to ask for him, they could not find him, he had escaped it is thought by the connivance of the ambassador.

When Foscari went to take leave of the Palatine and Princess at Greenwich he had audience in the gallery; in making a low reverence the ambassador touched the ground with one knee.

Had never heard of misconduct with the queen. When Foscari visited her at Wells, he touched the sleeve of her dress and praised its beauty. The queen was in no wise offended, as the ambassador remained an hour with her watching the bull baiting.



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Asked if Foscarini had mounted on a table with a beaker in his hand to drink the king's health, without slippers, said no, but it was in accordance with the custom of the country and he had seen him mount a chair but in his slippers. He had done this once at dinner with Sir [Lewis] Lewknor and some friends.

The ambassador dined once at Windsor (*Veder*) castle and afterwards took leave of the king, proposing to return to London, after visiting the prince at Newark. I remained at the court to thank Lord Hay for certain favours. He sent me to fetch back the ambassador, as the prince would be there that evening and the king wished the ambassador to celebrate the festivities of the following day with him. When the ambassador returned it was night. The king was supping in one room and the prince in the other. Accordingly the duke of Lennox sent to fetch the ambassador to sup with him. On the following morning he dined at the prince's table. The king's table was opposite. At the prince's were those who had supped with the ambassador on the preceding evening. The ambassador was not offended.

The ambassador had no difficulty in obtaining audience of the prince. With the queen he had the same difficulties as the rest; once he was six or eight months without seeing her, as she was away in progress and at the baths.

Only knows that when the ambassador was dining with the king, His Majesty drank to his pleasant journey to Scotland. They had probably talked it over before. Lord Hay, the earl of Salisbury, a bishop and others were present.

Never heard any indecent expressions used by the ambassador on his visit to the king of Denmark. He acted with that king as he has done with the kings of France and England, except that he did not kiss his hand.

Feb. 27. Giovanni Francesco Biondi of Liesena was examined in the presence of the Ambassador Barbarigo. The scandalous reports about Foscarini's relations with the queen came from Muscorno.

March 14. Antonio di Michiel examined as above. On return from Scotland we met the king's courier with letters to the Viceroy of Scotland. Did not see the ambassador open it. When they met the courier they asked where he was going. He said he was carrying letters, including some for the ambassador. He was sent for and gave up the packet. It was about a day's journey from York.

March 20. M. Francis de la Forêt, a French gentleman, examined before His Excellency. There was no open quarrel between Foscarini and Muscorno before the latter struck the ambassador's chamberlain. Previously Muscorno had schemed against the ambassador behind his back. Afterwards Muscorno got the chamberlain to tell the king's officers that Foscarini wished to kill him. The chamberlain went to tell this story to the recorder of London. He afterwards asked Foscarini to pardon him for this falsehood. Muscorno went about spreading slanders against the ambassador.

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May 10. Antonio di Michiel, examined, said he had heard the origin of the dispute between Foscarini and Muscorno was that the latter asked a favour which the ambassador first promised but afterwards refused. Muscorno spread untruths about Foscarini. He went to court with Sir [William] Smith and Lady Hay, and spoke ill of him.

[*Italian.*]

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GENERAL INDEX.

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## GENERAL INDEX.

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5. *JOHANNIS AMUNDESHAM, MONACHI MONASTERII S. ALBANI, UT VIDETUR, ANNALES*; Vols. I. and II.
6. *REGISTRA QUORUNDAM ABBATUM MONASTERII S. ALBANI, QUI SÆCULO XV<sup>MO</sup> FLORUERE*. Vol. I., *REGISTRUM ABBATIS JOHANNIS WHETHAMSTEDE, ABBATIS MONASTERII SANCTI ALBANI, ITERUM SUSCEPTÆ*; ROBERTO BLAKENEY, CAPELLANO, QUONDAM ADSCRIPTUM: Vol. II., *REGISTRA JOHANNIS WHETHAMSTEDE, WILLELMI ALBON, ET WILLELMI WALINGFORDE, ABBATUM MONASTERII SANCTI ALBANI, CUM APPENDICE CONTINENTE QUASDAM EPISTOLAS A JOHANNE WHETHAMSTEDE CONSCRIPTAS*.
7. *YPODIGMA NEUSTRIÆ A THOMA WALSINGHAM, QUONDAM MONACHO MONASTERII S. ALBANI, CONSCRIPTUM*.

*Edited by* HENRY THOMAS RILEY, M.A., Barrister-at-Law. 1863-1876.

In the first two volumes is a History of England, from the death of Henry III. to the death of Henry V., by Thomas Walsingham, Precentor of St. Albans.

In the 3rd volume is a Chronicle of English History, attributed to William Rishanger, who lived in the reign of Edward I.: an account of transactions attending the award of the kingdom of Scotland to John Balliol, 1291-1292, also attributed to William Rishanger, but on no sufficient ground: a short Chronicle of English History, 1292 to 1300, by an unknown hand: a short Chronicle, Willelmi Rishanger (*Gesta Edwardi Primi, Regis Angliæ*, probably by the same hand: and fragments of three Chronicles of English History, 1285 to 1307.

In the 4th volume is a Chronicle of English History, 1259 to 1296: *Annals of Edward II.*, 1307 to 1323, by John de Trokelowe, a monk of St. Albans, and a continuation of Trokelowe's *Annals*, 1323, 1324, by Henry de Blanford: a full Chronicle of English History, 1392 to 1406, and an account of the benefactors of St. Albans, written in the early part of the 15th century.

The 5th, 6th, and 7th volumes contain a history of the Abbots of St. Albans, 793 to 1411, mainly compiled by Thomas Walsingham, with a Continuation.

The 8th and 9th volumes, in continuation of the *Annals*, contain a Chronicle probably of John Amundesham, a monk of St. Albans.

The 10th and 11th volumes relate especially to the acts and proceedings of Abbots Whethamstede, Albon, and Walingford.

The 12th volume contains a compendious History of England to the reign of Henry V. and of Normandy in early times, also by Thomas Walsingham, and dedicated to Henry V.

29. *CHRONICON ABBATIS EVESHAMENSIS, AUCTORIBUS DOMINICO PRIORE EVESHAMIS ET THOMA DE MARLEBERGE ABBATE, A FUNDATIONE AD ANNUM 1213, UNA CUM CONTINUATIONE AD ANNUM 1418*. *Edited by* the Rev. W. D. MACRAY, Bodleian Library, Oxford. 1863.

The Chronicle of Evesham illustrates the history of that important monastery from 690 to 1418. Its chief feature is an autobiography, which makes us acquainted with the inner daily life of a great abbey. Interspersed are many notices of general, personal, and local history.

30. *RICARDI DE CIRENCESTRIA SPECULUM HISTORIALE DE GESTIS REGUM ANGLIÆ*. Vol. I., 447-871. Vol. II., 872-1066. *Edited by* JOHN E. B. MAYOR, M.A., Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. 1863-1869.

Richard of Cirencester's history is in four books, and gives many charters in favour of Westminster Abbey, and a very full account of the lives and miracles of the saints, especially of Edward the Confessor, whose reign occupies the fourth book. A treatise on the Coronation, by William of Sudbury, a monk of Westminster, fills book ii. c. 3.

31. *YEAR BOOKS OF THE REIGNS OF EDWARD THE FIRST AND EDWARD THE THIRD*. Years 21-21, 21-22, 30-31, 32-33, and 33-35 Edw. I.; and 11-12 Edw. III. *Edited and translated by* ALFRED JOHN HORWOOD, Barrister-at-Law. Years 12-13, 13-14, 14-15, 15-16, 17-18, 18-19, 19, and 20, Edward III. *Edited and translated by* LUKE OWEN PIKE, M.A., Barrister-at-Law. 1863-1906.

32. *NARRATIVES OF THE EXPULSION OF THE ENGLISH FROM NORMANDY, 1449-1450.*—Robertus Blondelli de Reductione Normannie: Le Recouvrement de Normendie, par Berry, Hérault du Roy: Conférences between the Ambassadors of France and England. *Edited by the Rev. JOSEPH STEVENSON, M.A.* 1863.
33. *HISTORIA ET CARTULARIUM MONASTERII S. PETRI GLOUCESTRIÆ.* Vols. I.-III. *Edited by W. H. HART, F.S.A., Membre Correspondant de la Société des Antiquaires de Normandie.* 1863-1867.
34. *ALEXANDRI NECKAM DE NATURIS RERUM LIBRI DUO; with NECKAM'S POEM, DE LAUDIBUS DIVINÆ SAPIENTIÆ.* *Edited by THOMAS WRIGHT, M.A.* 1863.
35. *LEECHDOMS, WORTCUNNING, AND STARCRAFT OF EARLY ENGLAND; being a Collection of Documents illustrating the History of Science in this Country before the Norman Conquest.* Vols. I.-III. *Collected and edited by the Rev. T. OSWALD COCKAYNE, M.A.* 1864-1866.
36. *ANNALES MONASTICI.*  
 Vol. I. :—*Annales de Margan, 1066-1232; Annales de Theokesberia, 1066-1263; Annales de Burton, 1004-1263.*  
 Vol. II. :—*Annales Monasterii de Wintonia, 519-1277; Annales Monasterii de Waverleia, 1-1291.*  
 Vol. III. :—*Annales Prioratus de Dunstaplia, 1-1297. Annales Monasterii de Bermundeseia, 1042-1432.*  
 Vol. IV. :—*Annales Monasterii de Oseneia, 1016-1347; Chronicon vulgo dictum Chronicon Thomæ Wykes, 1066-1289; Annales Prioratus de Wigornia, 1-1377.*  
 Vol. V. :—*Index and Glossary.*  
*Edited by HENRY RICHARDS LUARDS, M.A., Fellow and Assistant Tutor of Trinity College, and Registry of the University, Cambridge.* 1864-1869.
37. *MAGNA VITA S. HUGONIS EPISCOPI LINCOLNIENSIS.* *Edited by the Rev. JAMES F. DIMOCK, M.A., Rector of Barnburgh, Yorkshire* 1864.
38. *CHRONICLES AND MEMORIALS OF THE REIGN OF RICHARD THE FIRST.*  
 Vol. I. :—*ITINERARIUM PEREGRINORUM ET GESTA REGIS RICARDI.*  
 Vol. II. :—*EPISTOLÆ CANTUARIENSES; the Letters of the Prior and Convent of Christ Church, Canterbury; 1187 to 1199.*  
*Edited by the Rev. WILLIAM STUBBS, M.A., Vicar of Navestock, Essex, and Lambeth Librarian.* 1864-1865.  
The authorship of the Chronicle in Vol. I., hitherto ascribed to Geoffrey Vinesauf, is now more correctly ascribed to Richard, Canon of the Holy Trinity of London. The letters in Vol. II., written between 1187 and 1199, had their origin in a dispute which arose from the attempts of Baldwin and Hubert, archbishops of Canterbury, to found a college of secular canons, a project which gave great umbrage to the monks of Canterbury.
39. *RECUEIL DES CRONIQUES ET ANCHIENNES ISTORIES DE LA GRANT BRETAGNE A PRESENT NOMME ENGLETERRE, par JEHAN DE WAURIN.* Vol. I., Albina to 688. Vol. II., 1399-1422. Vol. III., 1422-1431. *Edited by WILLIAM HARDY, F.S.A.* 1864-1879. Vol. IV., 1431-1447. Vol. V., 1447-1471. *Edited by Sir WILLIAM HARDY, F.S.A., and EDWARD L. C. P. HARDY, F.S.A.* 1884-1891.
40. *A COLLECTION OF THE CHRONICLES AND ANCIENT HISTORIES OF GREAT BRITAIN, NOW CALLED ENGLAND, by JOHN DE WAURIN.* Vol. I., Albina to 688. Vol. II., 1399-1422. Vol. III., 1422-1431. (Translations of the preceding Vols. I., II., and III. *Edited and translated by Sir WILLIAM HARDY, F.S.A., and EDWARD L. C. P. HARDY, F.S.A.* 1864-1891.

41. **POLYCHRONICON RANULPHI HIGDEN**, with Trevisa's Translation. Vols. I. and II. *Edited by* CHURCHILL BABINGTON, B.D., Senior Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. Vols. III.-IX. *Edited by* the Rev. JOSEPH RAWSON LUMBY, D.D., Norrisian Professor of Divinity, Vicar of St. Edward's, Fellow of St. Catharine's College, and late Fellow of Magdalene College, Cambridge. 1865-1886.

This chronicle begins with the Creation, and is brought down to the reign of Edward III. The two English translations, which are printed with the original Latin, afford interesting illustrations of the gradual change of our language, for one was made in the fourteenth century, the other in the fifteenth.

42. **LE LIVRE DE REIS DE BRITTANIE E LE LIVRE DE REIS DE ENGLETERE**. *Edited by* the Rev. JOHN GLOVER, M.A., Vicar of Brading, Isle of Wight, formerly Librarian of Trinity College, Cambridge. 1865.

These two treatises are valuable as careful abstracts of previous histories.

43. **CHRONICA MONASTERII DE MELSA AB ANNO 1150 USQUE AD ANNUM 1406**, Vols. I.-III. *Edited by* EDWARD AUGUSTUS BOND, Assistant Keeper of Manuscripts, and Egerton Librarian, British Museum. 1866-1868.

44. **MATTHEI PARISIENSIS HISTORIA ANGLORUM, SIVE UT VULGO DICITUR HISTORIA MINOR**. Vols. I.-III. 1067-1253. *Edited by* Sir FREDERICK MADDEN, K.H., Keeper of the Manuscript Department of the British Museum. 1866-1869.

45. **LIBER MONASTERII DE HYDA: A CHRONICLE AND CHARTULARY OF HYDE ABBEY, WINCHESTER, 455-1023**. *Edited by* EDWARD EDWARDS. 1866.

The "Book of Hyde" is a compilation from much earlier sources, which are usually indicated with considerable care and precision. In many cases, however, the Hyde Chronicler appears to correct, to qualify, or to amplify the statements which, in substance, he adopts.

There is to be found, in the "Book of Hyde," much information relating to the reign of King Alfred which is not known to exist elsewhere. The volume contains some curious specimens of Anglo-Saxon and mediæval English.

46. **CHRONICON SCOTORUM. A CHRONICLE OF IRISH AFFAIRS**, from the earliest times to 1135; and **SUPPLEMENT**, containing the events from 1141 to 1150. *Edited, with Translation, by* WILLIAM MAUNSELL HENNESSY, M.R.I.A. 1866.

47. **THE CHRONICLE OF PIERRE DE LANGTOFT IN FRENCH VERSE, FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD TO THE DEATH OF EDWARD I.** Vols. I. and II. *Edited by* THOMAS WRIGHT, M.A. 1866-1868.

It is probable that Pierre de Langtoft was a canon of Bridlington, in Yorkshire and lived in the reign of Edward I., and during a portion of the reign of Edward II. This chronicle is divided into three parts; in the first, is an abridgement of Geoffrey of Monmouth's "Historia Britonum"; in the second, a history of the Anglo-Saxon and Norman kings, to the death of Henry III.; in the third, a history of the reign of Edward I. The language is a specimen of the French of Yorkshire.

48. **THE WAR OF THE GAEDHIL WITH THE GAILL, OR THE INVASIONS OF IRELAND BY THE DANES AND OTHER NORSEMEN**. *Edited, with a Translation, by* the Rev. JAMES HENTHORN TODD, D.D., Senior Fellow of Trinity College, and Regius Professor of Hebrew in the University of Dublin. 1867.

49. **GESTA REGIS HENRICI SECUNDI BENEDICTI ABBATIS. CHRONICLE OF THE REIGNS OF HENRY II. AND RICHARD I.** 1169-1192, known under the name of **BENEDICT OF PETERBOROUGH**. Vols. I. and II. *Edited by* the Rev. WILLIAM STUBBS, M.A., Regius Professor of Modern History, Oxford, and Lambeth Librarian. 1867.

50. **MUNIMENTA ACADEMICA, OR DOCUMENTS ILLUSTRATIVE OF ACADEMICAL LIFE AND STUDIES AT OXFORD** (in Two Parts). *Edited by* the Rev. HENRY ANSTAY, M.A., Vicar of St. Wendron, Cornwall, and late Vice-Principal of St. Mary Hall, Oxford. 1868.

51. *CHRONICA MAGISTRI ROGERI DE HOVEDENE. Vols. I.-IV. Edited by the Rev. WILLIAM STUBBS, M.A., Regius Professor of Modern History and Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. 1868-1871.*  
 The earlier portion, extending from 782 to 1148, appears to be a copy of a compilation made in Northumbria about 1161, to which Hoveden added little. From 1148 to 1169—a very valuable portion of this work—the matter is derived from another source, to which Hoveden appears to have supplied little. From 1170 to 1192 is the portion which corresponds to some extent with the Chronicle known under the name of Benedict of Peterborough (see No. 49). From 1192 to 1201 may be said to be wholly Hoveden's work.
52. *WILLELMI MALMESBIRIENSIS MONACHI DE GESTIS PONTIFICUM ANGLORUM LIBRI QUINQUE. Edited by N. E. S. A. HAMILTON, of the Department of Manuscripts, British Museum. 1870.*
53. *HISTORIC AND MUNICIPAL DOCUMENTS OF IRELAND, FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE CITY OF DUBLIN, &c. 1172-1320. Edited by JOHN T. GILBERT, F.S.A., Secretary of the Public Record Office of Ireland. 1870.*
54. *THE ANNALS OF LOCH CE. A CHRONICLE OF IRISH AFFAIRS, FROM 1041 to 1590. Vols. I. and II. Edited, with a Translation, by WILLIAM MAUNSELL HENNESSY, M.R.I.A. 1871. (Out of print.)*
55. *MONUMENTA JURIDICA. THE BLACK BOOK OF THE ADMIRALTY, WITH APPENDICES, Vols. I.-IV. Edited by Sir TRAVERS TWISS, Q.C., D.C.L. 1871-1876.*  
 This book contains the ancient ordinances and laws relating to the navy.
56. *MEMORIALS OF THE REIGN OF HENRY VI. :—OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE OF THOMAS BEKYNTON, SECRETARY TO HENRY VI., AND BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS. Edited by the Rev. GEORGE WILLIAMS, B.D., Vicar of Ringwood, late Fellow of King's College, Cambridge. Vols. I. and II. 1872.*
57. *MATTHÆI PARISIENSIS, MONACHI SANCTI ALBANI, CHRONICA MAJORA Vol. I. The Creation to A.D. 1066. Vol. II. 1067 to 1216. Vol. III. 1216 to 1239. Vol. IV. 1240 to 1247. Vol. V. 1248 to 1259. Vol. VI. Additamenta. Vol. VII. Index. Edited by the Rev. HENRY RICHARDS LUARD, D.D., Fellow of Trinity College, Registrar of the University, and Vicar of Great St. Mary's, Cambridge. 1872-1884.*
58. *MEMORIALE FRATRIS WALTERI DE COVENTRIA.—THE HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS OF WALTER OF COVENTRY. Vols. I. and II. Edited by the Rev. WILLIAM STUBBS, M.A., Regius Professor of Modern History, and Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. 1872-1873.*
59. *THE ANGLO-LATIN SATIRICAL POETS AND EPIGRAMMATISTS OF THE TWELFTH CENTURY. Vols. I. and II. Collected and edited by THOMAS WRIGHT, M.A., Corresponding Member of the National Institute of France (Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres). 1872.*
60. *MATERIALS FOR A HISTORY OF THE REIGN OF HENRY VII., FROM ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS PRESERVED IN THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE. Vols. I. and II. Edited by the Rev. WILLIAM CAMPBELL, M.A., one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools. 1873-1877.*
61. *HISTORICAL PAPERS AND LETTERS FROM THE NORTHERN REGISTERS. Edited by the Rev. JAMES RAINE, M.A., Canon of York, and Secretary of the Surtees Society. 1873.*
62. *REGISTRUM PALATINUM DUNELMENSE. THE REGISTER OF RICHARD DE KELLawe, LORD PALATINE AND BISHOP OF DURHAM; 1311-1316. Vols. I.-IV. Edited by Sir THOMAS DUFFUS HARDY, D.C.L., Deputy Keeper of the Records. 1873-1874.*
63. *MEMORIALS OF ST. DUNSTAN, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY. Edited by the Rev. WILLIAM STUBBS, M.A., Regius Professor of Modern History and Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. 1874.*

64. **CHRONICON ANGLIÆ, AB ANNO DOMINI 1328 USQUE AD ANNUM 1388, AUCTORE MONACHO QUODAM SANCTI ALBANI.** *Edited by* EDWARD MAUNDE THOMPSON, Barrister-at-Law, Assistant Keeper of the Manuscripts in the British Museum. 1874.
65. **THOMAS SAGA ERKIBYSKUPS. A LIFE OF ARCHBISHOP THOMAS BECKET, IN ICELANDIC.** Vols. I. and II. *Edited, with English Translation, Notes, and Glossary, by* M. EIRIKR MAGNUSSON, M.A., Sub-Librarian of the University Library, Cambridge. 1875-1884.
66. **RADULPHI DE COGGESHALL. CHRONICON ANGLICANUM.** *Edited by* the Rev. JOSEPH STEVENSON, M.A. 1875.
67. **MATERIALS FOR THE HISTORY OF THOMAS BECKET, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.** Vols. I.-VI. *Edited by* the Rev. JAMES CRAIGIE ROBERTSON, M.A., Canon of Canterbury. 1875-1883. Vol. VII. *Edited by* JOSEPH BRIGSTOCKE SHEPPARD, LL.D. 1885.
- The first volume contains the life of the archbishop, and the miracles after his death, by William, a monk of Canterbury. The second, the life by Benedict of Peterborough, John of Salisbury, Alan of Tewkesbury, and Edward Grim. The third, the life by William Fitzstephen and Herbert of Bosham. The fourth, anonymous lives, Quadriologus, &c. The fifth, sixth, and seventh, the Epistles, and known letters.
68. **RADULFI DE DICETO, DECANI LUNDONIENSIS, OPERA HISTORICA. THE HISTORICAL WORKS OF MASTER RALPH DE DICETO, DEAN OF LONDON.** Vols. I. and II. *Edited by* the Rev. WILLIAM STUBBS, M.A., Regius Professor of Modern History, and Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. 1876.
- The Abbreviationes Chronicorum extend to 1147 and the Ymagines Historiarum to 1201.
69. **ROLL OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE KING'S COUNCIL IN IRELAND, FOR A PORTION OF THE 16TH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF RICHARD II. 1392-93.** *Edited by* the Rev. JAMES GRAVES, B.A. 1877.
70. **HENRICI DE BRACTON DE LEGIBUS ET CONSUEUDINIBUS ANGLIÆ LIBRI QUINQUE IN VARIOS TRACTATUS DISTINCTI.** Vols. I.-VI. *Edited by* SIR TRAVERS TWISS, Q.C., D.C.L. 1878-1883.
71. **THE HISTORIANS OF THE CHURCH OF YORK AND ITS ARCHBISHOPS.** Vols. I.-III. *Edited by* the Rev. JAMES RAINE, M.A., Canon of York, and Secretary of the Surtees Society. 1879-1894.
72. **REGISTRUM MALMESBURIENSE. THE REGISTER OF MALMESBURY ABBEY, PRESERVED IN THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE.** Vols. I. and II. *Edited by* the Rev. J. S. BREWER, M.A., Preacher at the Rolls, and Rector of Toppesfield; and CHARLES TRICE MARTIN, B.A. 1879-1880.
73. **HISTORICAL WORKS OF GERVASE OF CANTERBURY.** Vols. I. and II. *Edited by* the Rev. WILLIAM STUBBS, D.D., Canon Residentiary of St. Paul's, London; Regius Professor of Modern History and Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, &c. 1879-1880.
74. **HENRICI ARCHIDIACONI HUNTENDUNENSIS HISTORIA ANGLORUM. THE HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH, BY HENRY, ARCHDEACON OF HUNTINGDON, from A.D. 55 to A.D. 1154, in Eight Books.** *Edited by* THOMAS ARNOLD, M.A., 1879.
75. **THE HISTORICAL WORKS OF SYMEON OF DURHAM.** Vols. I. and II. *Edited by* THOMAS ARNOLD, M.A. 1882-1885.
76. **CHRONICLE OF THE REIGNS OF EDWARD I. AND EDWARD II.** Vols. I. and II. *Edited by* the Rev. WILLIAM STUBBS, D.D., Canon Residentiary of St. Paul's, London; Regius Professor of Modern History, and Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford, &c. 1882-1883.

The first volume of these Chronicles contains the *Annales Londonienses*, and the *Annales Paulini*: the second, I.—*Commendatio Lamentabilis in Transitu magni Regis Edwardi*. II.—*Gesta Edwardi de Carnarvan Auctore Canonico Bridlingtoniensi*. III.—*Monachi cujusdam Malmesburiensis Vita Edwardi II.* IV.—*Vita et Mors Edwardi II., conscripta a Thoma de la Moore.*

77. **REGISTRUM EPISTOLARUM FRATRIS JOHANNIS PECKHAM, ARCHIEPISCOPI CANTUARIENSIS.** Vols. I-III. *Edited by* CHARLES TRICE MARTIN, B.A., F.S.A. 1862-1886.

78. **REGISTER OF S. OSMUND.** Vols. I. and II. *Edited by* the Rev. W. H. RICH JONES, M.A., F.S.A., Canon of Salisbury, Vicar of Bradford-on-Avon. 1883-1884.

This Register derives its name from containing the statutes, rules, and orders made or compiled by S. Osmund, to be observed in the Cathedral and diocese of Salisbury.

79. **CHARTULARY OF THE ABBEY OF RAMSEY.** Vols. I-III. *Edited by* WILLIAM HENRY HART, F.S.A., and the Rev. PONSONBY ANNESLEY LYONS. 1884-1893.

80. **CHARTULARIES OF ST. MARY'S ABBEY, DUBLIN, WITH THE REGISTER OF ITS HOUSE AT DUNBRODY, COUNTY OF WEXFORD, AND ANNALS OF IRELAND, 1162-1370.** Vols. I. and II. *Edited by* JOHN THOMAS GILBERT, F.S.A., M.R.I.A. 1884-1885.

81. **EADMERI HISTORIA NOVORUM IN ANGLIA ET OPUSCULA DUO DE VITA SANCTI ANSELMI ET QUIBUSDAM MIRACULIS EJUS.** *Edited by* the Rev. MARTIN RULE, M.A. 1884.

82. **CHRONICLES OF THE REIGNS OF STEPHEN, HENRY II., AND RICHARD I.** Vols. I.-IV. *Edited by* RICHARD HOWLETT, Barrister-at-Law 1884-1889.

Vol. I. contains Books I-IV. of the *Historia Rerum Anglicarum* of William of Newburgh. Vol. II. contains Book V. of that work, the continuation of the same to A.D. 1296, and the *Draco Normannicus* of Etienne de Rouen.

Vol. III. contains the *Gesta Stephani Regis*, the Chronicle of Richard of Hexham, the *Relatio de Standardo* of St. Aelred of Rievaulx, the poem of Jordan Fantosme, and the Chronicle of Richard of Devizes.

Vol. IV. contains the Chronicle of Robert of Torigni.

83. **CHRONICLE OF THE ABBEY OF RAMSEY.** *Edited by* the Rev. WILLIAM DUNN MACRAY, M.A., F.S.A., Rector of Ducklington, Oxon. 1886.

84. **CHRONICA ROGERI DE WENDOVER, SIVE FLORES HISTORIARUM.** Vols. I.-III. *Edited by* HENRY GAY HEWLETT, Keeper of the Records of the Land Revenue. 1886-1889.

This edition gives that portion only of Roger of Wendover's Chronicle which can be accounted an original authority.

85. **THE LETTER BOOKS OF THE MONASTERY OF CHRIST CHURCH, CANTERBURY.** Vols. I.-III. *Edited by* JOSEPH BRIGSTOCKE SHEPARD, LL.D. 1887-1889.

The Letters printed in these volumes were chiefly written between 1296 and 1333.

86. **THE METRICAL CHRONICLE OF ROBERT OF GLOUCESTER.** *Edited by* WILLIAM ALDIS WRIGHT, M.A., Senior Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Parts I. and II. 1887.

The date of the composition of this Chronicle is placed about the year 1200. The writer appears to have been an eye witness of many events which he describes. The language in which it is written was the dialect of Gloucestershire at that time.

87. **CHRONICLE OF ROBERT OF BRUNNE.** *Edited by* FREDERICK JAMES FURNIVALL, M.A., Barrister-at-Law. Parts I. and II. 1887.

Robert of Brunne, or Bourne, co. Lincoln, was a member of the Gilbertine Order established at Sempringham. His Chronicle is described by its editor as a work of fiction, a contribution not to English history, but to the history of English.

88. **ICELANDIC SAGAS AND OTHER HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS relating to the Settlements and Descents of the Northmen on the British Isles.** Vol. I. Orkneyinga Saga, and Magnus Saga. Vol. II. Hakonar Saga, and Magnus Saga. *Edited by* GUDBRAND VIGFUSSON, M.A. 1887. Vols. III. and IV. Translations of the above by Sir GEORGE WEBBE DASENT, D.C.L. 1894.

89. **THE TRIPARTITE LIFE OF PATRICK,** with other documents relating to that Saint. *Edited by* WHITLEY STOKES, LL.D., D.C.L., Honorary Fellow of Jesus College, Oxford; and Corresponding Member of the Institute of France. Parts I. and II. 1887.



90. WILLELMI MONACHI MALMESBIRIENSIS DE REGUM GESTIS ANGLORUM LIBRI V.; ET HISTORIÆ NOVELLÆ, LIBRI III. *Edited* — WILLIAM STUBBS, D.D., Bishop of Oxford. Vols. I. and II. 1887-1889.
  91. LESTORIE DES ENGLIS SOLUM GEFREI GAIMAR. *Edited by* the late Sir THOMAS DUFFUS HARDY, D.C.L., Deputy Keeper of the Records; *continued and translated by* CHARLES TRICE MARTIN, B.A., F.S.A. Vols. I. and II. 1888-1889.
  92. CHRONICLE OF HENRY KNIGHTON, Canon of Leicester. Vols. I. and II. *Edited by* the Rev. JOSEPH RAWSON LUMBY, D.D., Norrisian Professor of Divinity. 1889-1895.
  93. CHRONICLE OF ADAM MURIMUTH, with the CHRONICLE OF ROBERT OF AVESBURY. *Edited by* EDWARD MAUNDE THOMPSON, LL.D., F.S.A., Principal Librarian and Secretary of the British Museum. 1889.
  94. REGISTER OF THE ABBEY OF ST. THOMAS THE MARTYR, DUBLIN. *Edited by* JOHN THOMAS GILBERT, F.S.A., M.R.I.A. 1889.
  95. FLORES HISTORIARUM. *Edited by* the Rev. H. R. LUARD, D.D., Fellow of Trinity College and Registry of the University, Cambridge. Vol. I., The Creton to A.D. 1066. Vol. II. A.D. 1067-1264. Vol. III. A.D. 1265-1326. 1890.
  96. MEMORIALS OF ST. EDMUND'S ABBEY. *Edited by* THOMAS ARNOLD, M.A., Fellow of the Royal University of Ireland. Vols. I.-III. 1890-1896.
  97. CHARTERS AND DOCUMENTS, ILLUSTRATING THE HISTORY OF THE CATHEDRAL AND CITY OF SARUM, 1100-1300; forming an Appendix to the Register of S. Osmund. *Selected by* the late Rev. W. H. RICH JONES, M.A., F.S.A., *and edited by* the Rev. W. D. MACRAY, M.A., F.S.A., Rector of Ducklington. 1891.
  98. MEMORANDA DE PARLIAMENTO, 25 Edward I. 1305. *Edited by* F. W. MAITLAND, M.A. 1893.
  99. THE RED BOOK OF THE EXCHEQUER. *Edited by* HUBERT HALL, F.S.A., of the Public Record Office. Parts I.-III. 1896.
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